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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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Worker issues hound IPI anew

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Labor issues continue to create nightmares for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, after another group of construction workers staged a protest yesterday at the Marina Heights II

» Over 100 rally at US Labor office for nonpayment of salaries

Building in Puerto Rico were the U.S. Department of Labor satellite office is located. This was the fourth protest by laborers or employees hired by the casino developer since August, after similar campaigns were staged by separate groups due to various reasons.

The protesters, working as masons ang plumbers, were already given their stop work notices. Two separate groups of construction workers also staged a protest or sought assistance from local and federal labor officials on wage and benefits issues, which was the same sentiment made by employees that were laid off under the casino division of IPI.

Ben Abarrientos, Ian Piel, and Ra-

See WORKER on Page 4

JON PEREZ

A representative from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, right, speaks to Filipino workers under the H-2B visa program to hear their concerns after meeting with U.S. Department of Labor officials yesterday at the Marianas Heights II Building in Puerto Rico.

Torres: Leaders must prevent another shutdown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said his administration is hopeful that leaders in Washington, D.C. would reach a consensus in the next few days to continue funding the operations of the federal government and avoid another shutdown, the second under President Donald Trump and the longest in U.S. history.

"We are very pleased that the government shutdown has ended. We are very thankful to our federal workers, particularly a number of our [Fed-

See TORRES on Page 4

'Saipan CUC power now close to 90 pct.'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed that since Super Typhoon Yutu, they have energized or provided power close to 90 percent of the overall customers on Saipan.

In an interview last Friday, Camacho said the materials needed in the restoration program are really moving forward quickly on Saipan.

Camacho said on Tinian, about 65 percent of their customers have already power and that materials are also arriving there now.

He said CUC has a "wonderful working relationship" with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal agencies, which

See CUC on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Yonsei Academy's Kate Ishida finished second in the senior division of the recent Young Artists Competition held in Guam.

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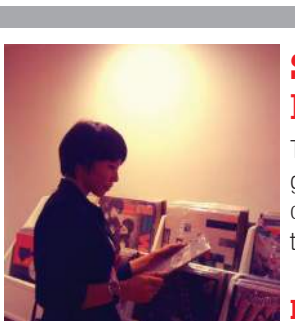

SPECIAL FEATURE
The new year comes with new goals and aspirations and one of the popular new year resolutions is to save money.

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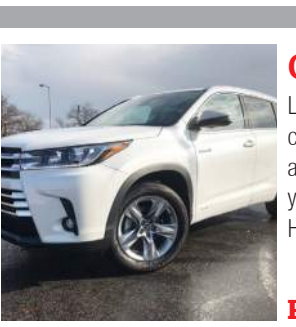

OVERDRIVE
Looking for the most fuel-efficient three-row crossover with all-wheel drive? Chances are you've zeroed in on the Toyota Highlander Hybrid.

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Local

Saipan Sawyers ready to aid in recovery

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The newly created Saipan Sawyers, through the Marianas Young Professionals, has completed their training and are ready to aid the CNMI community in their ongoing debris clearing needs.

MyPros executive director G Van Gils officially welcomed last Wednesday the Saipan Sawyers, which is the newest arm of the non-profit.

The Saipan Sawyers consist of eight professionally trained chainsaw practitioners who are equipped to help those who need to clear storm-damaged trees. The eight sawyers are Steven Beyer, Ajani Burrell, Micah Page, Mikiotti Evangelista, Jerrid Igisaiar, C.J. Jensen, Tushar Abdullah, and Van Gils himself.

"We have organized volunteers, raised money, and distributed that money through relief efforts. One of the relief efforts we saw a need for is to clear large trees which are storm damaged. Nobody in the Marianas has the training and the equipment to remove storm-damaged trees from private property. The various organizations may cover public roads or public property but for everyone that's just suffering in their recovery, who can help them? The MyPros is a community non-profit organization and we're an educationally focused non-profit so we saw an opportunity to meet a community need by providing organized education programming," he said.

"MyPros is professional. We went to the very best organizations, we went to the very best instructors, and bought the very best equipment because this is the most dangerous profession in the world and we will not be having our people getting hurt if we can help," he added.

MyPros hired David Birdsall, Soren Erikson Game of Logging's Northeast Woodland Training chainsaw instructor. Birdsall is sponsored by Husqvarna Chainsaws and was trained personally by innovator of the chainsaw industry, Soren Erikson.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The newly trained and equipped Saipan Sawyers pose for a photo after their recognition ceremony last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Birdsall has been training the Saipan Sawyers for about three days and said that they have been an incredible bunch to work with.

"They were amazing, very dedicated, very professional. I think it's a testimony to them being teachers…they're eager to learn, they paid attention, they did very well so I feel very confident…these guys were solid and they're going to be very good sawyers," Birdsall said.

In the immediate aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, MyPros has been providing food and water to the community, and are now aiding in the cleanup of typhoon debris.

"Now, we are passed our immediate recovery. The MyPros committed to our community a couple of things, we committed to raise $100,000 and we have done so. We committed to spend $100,000 within the 90 days of the typhoon's impact and we've spent more than we raised… meeting our commitment to the community. Part of that was just disposables…we're transitioning to resilience out of recovery and into typhoon preparedness and resilience and that is why MyPros has focused on training so that we continue large tree debris removal not just for this storm but for every storm and we want to build capacity of our local people. We invested in training and equipment and now we've trained our people so they can help our people and themselves and help their neighbors.

The Saipan Sawyers have already begun using their newfound skills by clearing private properties and roads.

"We hope that people that operate chainsaws in the CNMI will get trained, and use proper safety equipment because this is a very dangerous job that required training and equipment and people should not just whip out their chainsaws and try to clear debris. It's a very dangerous pastime and we don't want to see our people injured. Let's let professionals with professional training handle these tasks and let's increase the number of trained people. We hope to conduct future training for fire departments, the National Guard, and various other non-profit and government agencies that are doing cleanup work, we want to train them and equip them properly that's the goal," said Van Gil.

UFO has new set of officers

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization last Sunday evening officially concluded their elections and already has a new lineup of officers-elect.

UFO president-elect Gerry de Guzman comprises the new set of officers for the organization, which includes vice president-elect Mar Masilungan, secretary Birhen Martinez, treasurer Ladyvir Canape, and auditor Yholanda Villavicencio.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, de Guzman noted that one of his goals for the organization is to bring back sporting events that had been previously discontinued.

» Gerry de Guzman is new president

"We have activities lined up for the UFO," he said. "I wish to revive sporting events of the UFO which was discontinued for about three or four years. We would also be conducting trainings and seminars for professional development," he added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new set of United Filipino Organization pose for a photo after their election last Sunday.

De Guzman further emphasized that the future trainings and seminars, members of the organization would be prioritized for the limited slots.

"I am looking forward to two years as president of the UFO," he said.

De Guzman would be replacing current UFO president Marlon Regaton, who was president to the organization since 2017.

De Guzman further noted that the date for the official swearing in of officers has yet to be discussed since the conclusion of the organization's election last Sunday evening.

"It is still premature to say now when the oath-taking ceremony would be since it is also dependent on the availability of the other UFO officers," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Substantial legal fees unpaid by Atalig

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig currently owes a substantial amount in unpaid legal fees to O'Connor Berman Horey & Banes law firm, which is representing him in a criminal case pending in federal and local courts, according to his counsel, David G. Banes.

Atalig

Banes, a member of the O'Connor law firm, yesterday asked permission from the U.S. District Court for the NMI for the firm to withdraw as counsel for Atalig in the event that the court denies the mayor's motion to appoint a counsel for him.

Banes said the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct permits an attorney to withdraw representation if "the client fails substantially to fulfill an obligation to the lawyer regarding the lawyer's services and has been given reasonable warning that the lawyer will withdraw unless the obligation is fulfilled."

He said Atalig entered into a written retainer agreement with their law firm under an hourly rate arrangement for the defense in this case.

Banes said the mayor also entered a separate retainer agreement with their law firm under the same hourly rate arrangement for the defense in his criminal case filed before the Superior Court.

The lawyer said pursuant to the agreements, Atalig deposited a retainer amount from which legal fees were to be deducted.

He said when legal fees exceed the retainers, the written agreements require Atalig to pay the deficiency.

Banes said when the retainer agreements were signed, the federal court case involved only one count of wire fraud concerning a single trip from Rota to Guam.

However, Banes said, the U.S. government filed a superseding indictment including additional counts related to four different trips, making this case much more complicated and time consuming.

In addition, he said, the prosecution has produced several thousands of pages of discovery materials so far, and has indicated more might be coming.

As a result, Banes said, Atalig has incurred substantial legal fees and expenses.

Banes said so far, the retainers Atalig paid to their law firm have been depleted and the mayor currently owes substantial legal fees, the bulk of which was for the defense in the federal case.

The lawyer said Atalig was notified of the depletion of the retainers last October, but he has not made any payment to their law firm.

Banes said the mayor has indicated that he currently does not have the funds to pay the legal fees owed, let alone fees that will be incurred as the case moves forward.

Banes said their law firm has warned Atalig that it would withdraw from representing him if the legal fees are not paid when due.

He said they informed Atalig that if withdrawal is approved by the court, he will be left to find new counsel unless he cures the deficiency in unpaid legal fees.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Atalig's unopposed request to file under seal his financial affidavit and declaration in support of his motion for the court to appoint counsel to represent him in his criminal case.

In his request to seal, Atalig, through counsel Banes, said he plans to file a motion to appoint counsel under the Criminal Justice Act program and to include a financial affidavit and/or a declaration that discusses confidential personal financial information.

Last December, Atalig, through counsel, informed the court that he may be eligible for a court-appointed counsel.

Last September, Manglona determined that the mayor is not eligible for a court-appointed counsel. This prompted Atalig to hire the O'Connor law firm to represent him.

In federal court, Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, are indicted with five corruption charges for arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Republic of Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

In the Superior Court case, the Office of the Attorney General filed criminal charges against Atalig and seven other Rota municipal officials in connection with the Guam political rally.

The Ataligs pleaded not guilty of all charges.

Atalig was re-elected as Rota mayor during the last Nov. 13 election.

Sirok out as CUC general counsel

James S. Sirok is no longer the general counsel for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as his employment contact expired last Sunday.

Sirok informed U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter of his withdrawal from the U.S. government's lawsuit against CUC and the CNMI government based on the fact that he is no longer authorized to represent CUC as its attorney in any legal matters.

In his declaration filed in District Court last Friday, Sirok said based on the expiration of the terms of the employment contract and the personnel action with CUC, he is no longer authorized to be employed by CUC as its general counsel.

He said he is no longer authorized by CUC to perform legal services on behalf of the utilities agency.

Sirok did not disclose the reason why he is out as counsel for CUC.

Sirok said the CNMI Attorney General also serves as legal counsel for CUC and is able to represent CUC in the U.S. government's lawsuit absent any conflict from doing so.

Sirok said as of this date, he is not aware of any conflict between the CNMI and CUC in this matter which would prevent the CNMI AG from also representing CUC during the status conference set to commence yesterday in the event CUC does not appear with other counsel.

Sirok has been serving as general counsel for CUC for over six years. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Army vet pleads not guilty to sexual abuse allegations

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Retired Army reservist Michael Barry Murphy, who allegedly sexually abused a minor in 2016, pleaded not guilty to both sexual assault charges made against him.

During an arraignment hearing yesterday, the 56-year-old Murphy offered a plea of not guilty to the charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree charged against him.

Murphy was represented by public defender Heather Zona after Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja found him to be indigent.

Naraja

A status conference for Murphy is set for March 12, at 1:30pm.

Murphy was charged by the government after allegedly sexually abusing a then 4-year-old child.

According to court information, on or about Aug. 6, 2016, Murphy allegedly engaged in sexual contact with a minor child who was 4 at the time.

Murphy is currently released after posting a $50,000 bond.

In a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, there was another pending sexual abuse of a minor case filed against Murphy.

In the pending case, the government charges Murphy with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and one count of indecent exposure in the first degree.

The incident allegedly happened from 1994 to 2004 when the victim was a minor. The victim would now be 28 years old.

WORKER

From Page 1

mil Toring joined more than 100 of their colleagues in visiting the federal labor department to seek assistance from the U.S. agency about their current situation. The group is demanding that the casino developer release their final paychecks that include their salaries and other benefits like the seven-day accrued paid time-off, and issue their return tickets to the Philippines.

All workers are H-2B visa holders and are worried about their current situation following the decision made by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on Jan. 19, 2019 removing the Philippines under the said program due to potential for abuse, overstay rates, fraud, human trafficking concerns, and other forms of noncompliance. The ban ends on Jan. 18, 2020 and DHS, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' help, would again assess the country.

Abarrientos, Piel, and Toring told *Saipan Tribune* that they and their colleagues are worried that if they remain on Saipan after the Jan. 30 expiration of their respective H-2B work visas, they may be branded as overstayers even if it was not their fault. They could be branded as overstayers if ever they would still be on Saipan a day after their visa expires and that could put a blotch on their record.

Abarrientos said that he was even at the top of the list that would be sent home after he stopped working at the construction site last Jan. 24. However, he hasn't received his final paycheck and plane ticket despite being scheduled to return to the Philippines at 5:40am yesterday.

"I was scheduled to leave [Monday morning] but I haven't received my return ticket before my flight. We are ready to leave Saipan and return to our families in the Philippines, so we could apply to work in other countries. Our families already know that we're already out of work and are waiting for us to come home," said Abarrientos in Filipino.

"Our H-2B visas are valid only up to the Jan. 30 and DHS has already issued a total ban for the Philippines. What will happen to us if we want to apply and work in another U.S. [jurisdiction] or country after they lift the ban? If we overstay here, it will be part of our permanent record and would be a problem on our side," added Piel in Filipino.

Endless promises?

Toring said in Filipino that IPI project vice president Spike Dai had assured them last Friday that they would settle all of their concerns at 9:30am on Monday (yesterday), then it was moved to 4:15pm. "We only have less than two days left to legally stay here, [today's] the 28th. We're being referred to different persons, who would later tell us to go to another person."

"Some of us were given notice of our tentative flight back home, then they would inform us that it got cancelled. Some of our colleagues should have left Saipan on Jan. 25 and we really wanted to go home. We do not want to be branded as part of the 40 percent who overstayed according to DHS and USCIS."

Dai and their foreman, a certain John Taiwanese who also speaks Mandarin, met with them yesterday where they sent two company buses to bring them back to their housing and wait for the meeting where all of their concerns would be addressed. The workers declined and chose to remain outside the MH II building where they wanted to meet IPI representatives with U.S. labor officials.

John, the foreman, even explained to the workers that they could be re-hired by IPI once DHS lifts the H-2B visa ban anytime adding that it could be in the next two months. The ban, however, is for one year with DHS and USCIS going to reassess the country that was removed from the visa program if they have complied with all U.S. immigration laws.

The workers also complained of not being provided food and water. Toring said their barracks' security guard prevented them from getting food and water since they already stopped working for the company since Jan. 24.

Statements

IPI, in a statement said, they have about 400 construction workers that are under the H-2B visa program that are going to expire by the end of next month. "The H-2B workers from the Philippines cannot presently be extended or recruited to work for IPI under the latest USCIS regulations."

"In addition, IPI is unable to use the CW-1 program [CNMI-Only Worker visas] for construction workers because of the amendment to the CW law. However, IPI assures the community that it is doing its best to continue with the construction of the project as we continually face these and other challenges."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a separate statement sent to the media, said IPI has assured them that all workers are being paid as they continue to address the issues of those whose H-2B visas are going to expire. "From discussions with IPI, all employees are being paid. We have received assurances from their human resources department that the company is reviewing the status of expiring H-visas within the confines of the law."

"The CNMI Department of Labor is working closely with the U.S. Department of Labor to monitor the situation to ensure compliance and validity of permits," said Torres, who added that the issue is part of the bigger problem that the CNMI and Guam are facing right now regarding the removal of the Philippines from the H-2B visa program.

"Our access to labor has been limited even before the Commonwealth existed, and our economic viability has been predicated on geographical location for interested workers and investors. The news of the removal of the Philippines from the list of eligible countries is disappointing and surprising," said Torres.

"This affects our Filipino community who have contributed their lives and service to our islands. This also hampers our recovery efforts as we rebuild homes and build stronger infrastructure that is built to last. [My] administration will continue to remain proactive in addressing this issue with our federal partners by advocating for our viability as an island economy that just wants to succeed for our people."

Another black eye

House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the said the labor issue incident is another black eye to the Marianas. Propst and Sablan met with the group also yesterday were they referred them to the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. and Karidat Social Services for further assistance.

"[We] met with a large group of H-2B workers from the Philippines who have not been paid and haven't gotten their airline tickets yet. Their work visas expire on Jan. 30, two days from now. These workers are broke and can't even buy food right now," said Propst.

"It is so heartbreaking and we were told there are about 300 of them altogether who are awaiting their final paychecks and a ticket back home to the Philippines. An IPI representative said they will get paid by 4pm [yesterday]. We hope they deliver on their promise."

Sablan added that he and Propst met with the group after hearing their sad plight. "We went to meet them to listen to their concerns. Once again, we heard stories of yet another sudden, mass layoff at IPI with very little information provided to the workers about their rights. They said they are all owed money and repatriation tickets. They are all construction workers. They say there are hundreds of them affected and they have no food or water at their barracks."

"This is just the latest in a series of layoffs at IPI these past few months—of construction and non-construction workers, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens alike. Meanwhile, IPI has been advertising these past few weeks once again for over 1,600 construction-related positions, many of which were occupations affected by the recent layoffs."

She said that IPI is obligated to abide by the contracts they signed with their workers that is required by U.S. and CNMI labor laws. "They owe these workers their full pay and repatriation tickets. And they also owe our government and the people of the Marianas an explanation, and how they plan to complete their project as required by the terms of the exclusive casino license we have given them. I feel sorry for these workers."

In a late afternoon message to the *Saipan Tribune*, Rep. Tina Sablan said she was informed by Propst that the workers were not paid.

"One of the workers called [Propst] and said they were not paid at 4pm as promised," she said.

TORRES

From Page 1

eral Emergency Management Agency] partners who demonstrated devotion to our recovery efforts in the midst of uncertainty," said Torres in a statement.

"It is our hope that our federal partners in the White House and Congress can reach a funding agreement within these next three weeks to prevent another shutdown."

The federal government shutdown lasted 35 days, beginning on Dec. 22, 2018 and ended on Jan. 25, 2019 after Congress—House and Senate—reached an agreement to reopen the government after passing a spending bill by voice vote. Trump signed the bill on Jan. 25 to end the month-long standoff.

The shutdown caused 800,000 federal workers to be furloughed or forced to work without pay for 35 days in agencies like the U.S. Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Aviation Agency.

The shutdown had little effect on the relief and recovery operations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the CNMI, which was struck by Typhoon Mangkhut (Rota) in September and Super Typhoon Yutu (Saipan and Tinian) last October.

FEMA Region IX administrator Robert J. Fenton Jr. said disaster assistance programs in the CNMI are not affected since disaster relief funds are a different appropriation. Majority of FEMA personnel in the Commonwealth are also getting paid.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services public affairs officer Claire K. Nicholson said the shutdown also had little effect on their operations when it comes to processing CNMI-related immigration documents except only for the temporary suspension of the e-Verify program.

The refusal of the Democrats for a $5.7-billion funding for Trump's much-promised southern border wall sparked the debate and back-and-forth negotiations between Congress and the White House, which eventually resulted to the shutdown.

CUC

From Page 1

have been supporting and providing the need in materials, equipment, and labor.

"This type of support that we need to be able to be successful, the consumers, and the economy and the government benefit," he said.

Camacho said they anticipate to complete the power restoration aspect of the program in the latter part of February for both Saipan and Tinian.

"That's from my understanding from the contractor and the CUC power manager. And so, we are doing well in that regard," he said.

The executive director said materials have always been an issue, but that 271 transformers came early part of last week.

He said another 280 transformers are coming later this week along with lots of hardware and conductors.

He said there are a few more things needed in the final stage and that they are dealing with them.

Camacho said they are putting a lot of street lights as they can. "Street lights need transformers. So as transformers coming you see street lights," he said.

Camacho said they are making serious efforts to light up areas on the main primary roads and in villages.

"And you can see a lot of activity throughout the next couple of weeks," he said.

Ishida places 2nd in Guam competition

Yonsei Academy's Kate Ishida finished second in the senior division of the recent Young Artists Competition held in Guam.

The 17-year-old pianist's winning piece was Frédéric Chopin's *Etude Winter Wind Op. 25, No. 11*.

"I wasn't expecting to make it this far. There were eight other competitors in the senior division, ranging from pianists, violinists, flutists, to vocalists, and they were all very talented," said the Marianas High School junior.

"The piece I played, 'Winter Wind', is very fast and technically difficult. You can really picture the 'storm' that Chopin depicts in this étude," she added.

Ishida said her success in the Young Artists Competition couldn't come as a better time, given that the CNMI needs all the good news it could get after Super Typhoon devastated Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

"My island was recently devastated by Typhoon Yutu, and as the only representative in the competition from Saipan, I wanted to paint a picture through my music for people to understand how devastating the storm was for us. I wanted to show people that even after all the adversaries we faced, we continue to confront our challenges. I believe my selection as a finalist is a reflection of my island's resilience to difficulty," she said.

Ishida said she will be going back to Guam on Feb, 10 for the winners concert.

"I am thrilled to represent my island once more," she said.

Yonsei Academy director Jihye Yun stated couldn't help but heap praise on the prodigious student.

"The students in the Young Artist Competition Senior Division were exceptionally competitive this year. The students in Guam worked very hard; however, despite Super Typhoon Yutu leaving us devastated, Kate worked extra, extra hard, which is why I personally think the results were so great! I'm sure the people of Saipan are having a hard time recovering to this day, but I believe Kate's victory will help the people regain energy and hope," Yun said.

Yonsei Academy competed in the Guam Young Artist Competition for the first time last year in 2018 and managed to sweep the first place in the elementary division.

"To continue on the legacy, they got a great result this year as well! They will be attending the Tumon Bay Music Festival in March and are all planning to have their annual piano concert in May. The active and delightful music of the students will bring Saipan plenty of energy and happiness!" added Yun. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yonsei Academy's Kate Ishida said her success in the Young Artists Competition couldn't come as a better time after Super Typhoon devastated Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

Guam, CNMI join forces for Peer Support

Islas-Aramas Peer Support Group CNMI, in collaboration with Tohge Guam, are individuals who have gained knowledge, skills, and tools to be a support system for those in the CNMI community struggling with substance abuse and mental health. A non-profit organization who have gone through extensive training covering all grounds and focusing on recovery.

"Recovery is a personal journey of discovery. It involves making sense of, and finding meaning in what has happened; becoming an expert in your own self-care; building a new sense of self purpose in life; discovering your own resourcefulness and possibilities and using these, and the resources available to you, to pursue your aspirations and goals, " it said in a statement.

On Friday, Jan. 25, as one Marianas: Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota the members of I-A Peer joined forces with Tohge Guam for the QPR/ Gatekeeper Training. Joined as one, making history these peer groups have been working together for the past year.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, a Cheers for Peers Meet & Greet gathering was held, for the first time Peers from all the islands meet in one place and also to congratulate the eight certified peer specialists regionally or internationally. These eight members were certified by the Pacific Behavioral Collaborating Council and the Certification Board sanctioning the certification of Peer Recovery Specialists within the Pacific Jurisdiction. There are currently 13 members who are currently working on their certification. Peer specialists also received training from Robyn Priest from Australia who is a consultant at the Centre for Innovation in Peer Support, also a Consultant and Lead Project Coordinator at Peerlink National Technical Assistance Centre.

Tohge Guam has been working together, and dedicating their time with I-A Peer CNMI providing training, support and most importantly their heartfelt volunteering for the CNMI community for the Typhoon Yutu recovery. "Recovery" is the key word to what Tohge and I-A peer do for their communities.

I-A Peer and Tohge Guam would like send a special thank you to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann, Office of the Mayor Tinian, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., KKMP FM Radio, Marianas Behavioral Health International, Community Guidance Center, Systems of Care, Substance Abuse Addiction & Rehabilitation, and many more. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lady Diann Torres with members of Tohge Guam (Jeremiah Santos and Brian Hahn) Islas-Aramas representative from Saipan Emerlita Camacho, representatives from Tinian Lucy Hocog, Jovita Paulino, and Tania Marie Mendiola, and representative from Rota Kaye Christian.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-045

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK, FOUR-DOOR, DOUBLE CAB, 4WD, 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DCCA/CCDF-048 (A-B)

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 01, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE– 2018 OR NEWER MODEL (A) AND ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK 4X4 (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY 'AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DCCA/OoA-043

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "J" VEHICLE, FIFTEEN PASSENGER VAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE ON AGING"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-044

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK, 4WD, 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-JUDICIARY-01
SUBMISSION DATE: February 28, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"NEW 2019–2020 VEHICLES
(5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle)"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for new 2019-2020 vehicles (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle).

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT OF GUMA' HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP19-OPD-047

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 01, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"DATA STORAGE, MANAGEMENT, AND SHARING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO ERIN DERRINGTON BY EMAIL TO erind.opd@gmail.com, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 19, 2019.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Vaiagae wants to bring experience to Legislature

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae has been a public servant in a different way by providing counseling services to those who need them. She started her career as a teacher and guidance counselor at Marianas High School, then slowly transition to issues involving women, substance abusers and their families, and now personnel at the Department of Public Safety.

For almost 15 years she has been listening to various problems, needs, and whatever issues bothering her clients. Now, she is hoping to serve in another capacity after deciding to run for the special election on March 23 that would fill the vacant seat left by the untimely passing of former vice speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

She is hoping to bring another perspective coming from a woman and a clinician, as she tries to become the fourth female member of the House of Representatives and fifth in the entire CNMI Legislature after Reps. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), and Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota).

"We have wonderful male leaders, but I think there needs to be a balance in the representation. I want to be a fresh voice for women and bring in a clinician's perspective in the legislative body. We have the capacity of having women as leaders in our community and have another female in the Legislature," Vaiagae told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Vaiagae

"I've been a public servant for almost 10 years. I've been a teacher at Marianas High School right after finishing my bachelor's in psychology degree at the University of Guam and later a school counsellor. I went off-island again to pursue my master's degree while also working as a therapist. Now, I'm back on Saipan and wanted to serve the place where I grew up in."

For more than two years, she has worked as a counselor/therapist at the Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc., Saipan—dealing with alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse—and counselor for the Department of Public Safety helping police officers and civilian employees with duty-related problems, personal issues, and other stress factors.

"Now that I'm back home again, I'm still in the same field again, a public servant in a different way. I've been working closely with individuals that some may say are under served, marginalized, and those who are not well represented—like women, individuals that are impacted by the meth problem, and first responders," Vaiagae said.

"I would want to be a voice rather than remain a bystander. I want to give back more, not just service wise in terms of providing counselling and education. But, also through legislative work by bringing in a perspective from the clinician's side, and the individuals and families that I worked with through counseling."

She added that the CNMI Drug Court has been a wonderful program to help those who have drug-related problems recover and go back to become productive members of the community, but there's still a lot to be done to help those who chose to undergo individual rehabilitation and address the meth problem in the islands.

"Let us look at our laws to see on how can we help these individuals that are impacted by the meth problem. How can we draft bills or enact our laws for these people? The problem on methamphetamine is also a sensitive issue and I like to bring my experience as a counselor to lawmaking," Vaiagae said.

She also wants to push for the CNMI's first responders, like police officers and firefighters, to be provided with additional benefits like hazardous pay. "Police officers and our first responders put their lives at risk and yet they don't receive hazardous pay. I have yet to see a bill or a law about it. No one has addressed that yet. Let's get a bill going."

Vaiagae said that first responders worked tirelessly during and after Super Typhoon Yutu last year, despite some of them also being victims of one of the strongest storms that hit the Marianas. "They had left their homes to keep our community safe despite some of them also having damages in their homes or have lost their properties."

She is under the GOP and has already submitted her letter of intent to CNMI Republican Party Precinct 3 Club chair Joaquin Ogumoro. Marco Taisakan Peter is also seeking for the GOP's blessing and Vaiagae said she would accept the party's decision, whoever they choose to field as their candidate.

"I'm loyal to the party and if I won't be chosen as the candidate, I would clearly support the person that the GOP would choose. The [local] GOP always talk about family and I'm part of that family, so I would do my share to help that family," she added.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK

'We almost didn't have it'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2019 Catholic School Week officially started last Sunday despite the recent Super Typhoon Yutu that ravaged Saipan and Tinian as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced in a proclamation over the weekend.

"We almost didn't have it," said Mt. Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero in a short speech before Torres signed the proclamation at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Friday.

"There were a lot of questions and concerns whether we would continue [Catholic School Week]," he said, adding that after discussions, the committee named after Catholic School Week decided to push through.

"…We haven't lost heart of what Catholic School Week is," Deleon Guerrero further noted, adding that the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu forced them to "scale back on festivities."

Torres in an interview noted that with a majority of residents on Saipan being Catholic, the proclamation in promotion of the religion is important to the CNMI.

"…The most important thing in our lives is…the love of God—everywhere we go, it is with us," Torres said in a brief message. "…Whether if you are in first grade, graduating high school, or even travelling abroad, God is with you," he continued.

Torres told the MCS students who were attending the proclamation signing ceremony that it should be included in their daily lives as a priority.

"…You'll need Him in your life no matter what occupation you have, no matter where you are, no matter what you are doing in life, you need God right next to you," he said.

The proclamation recognized the several Catholic schools in the CNMI, including the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, Mt. Carmel School, and Rota's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja for "training and producing students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities."

ERWIN ENCINARES
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the Catholic School week proclamation at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Friday as Bishop Ryan Jimenez looks on.

Friends of the Arts' *Peter Pan* starts Friday

The Friends of the Art's production of *Peter Pan* starts this Friday, Feb. 1 The beloved J.M. Barrie play, *Peter Pan* or *The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up*, will be performed this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1, 2 and 3. The award-winning Broadway play is co-directed by Katie Hoyt and Neil Fama, produced by Ellen Kroot, with technical direction by Harold Easton for this Friends of the Arts production.

Peter Pan first debuted in London in 1904 and premiered at the National Theater in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 16, 1905, followed by a long run on Broadway. The play tells the story of Peter Pan, a mischievous yet innocent little boy who can fly, and lives on the island of Neverland that is inhabited by mermaids, fairies, Native Americans, and pirates. The play also involves the characters Wendy Darling and her two brothers, Peter's fairy Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, and the pirate Captain Hook. The play has a cast of 23 playing 30 different roles.

The play will be held at the Round House Theater in Garapan Central Park (next to Gold's Gym) in Garapan. Show dates will be on Feb. 1, 2 and 3, all shows starting at 7m. Tickets prices for all three shows start at $4 for students, $6 for FOA members, and $8 for adults. You may purchase tickets from members of the play's cast and at the door.

All members of the community are invited to attend, bring their family and friends, and enjoy the show.

The Friends of the Arts is your local community theater organization that promotes performing arts through hosting several plays each year. For more information or ticket reservations contact Frank Gibson through email at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy third birthday Serenity Faith! May you enjoy your special day. We love you and God bless you always! From Mommy & Daddy.

IT&E Exclusive Pika Sponsor for Tinian Hot Pepper fest

IT&E has signed on as the Exclusive Pika Sponsor of the 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16-17, 2019, in The Marianas.

IT&E will support the celebration, also known to locals as the "Pika" (spicy) Festival, with a donation of $2,000 cash and four Samsung J6 Pro with three months free service under their 4GLTE service.

"We are super excited to welcome back IT&E as a sponsor again this year for the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "This year's phone package donations, each valued at $1,500, are very enticing, and IT&E's generous cash support will also go a long way in helping to bring this event to our visitors and the people of Tinian."

Various competitions highlighting hot pepper will highlight the festival, as well as other games. Other activities during the weekend will include live entertainment, a variety of local dishes for sale, and indigenous craft sales.

The 65K Pika Bike Race will be held on Feb. 16 at 6am and will begin and end at the festival site at Kammer Beach. To register for the 65K Pika Bike Race and avail of free ferry on Feb. 15, bikers may contact Alex Gozon at alexgozon@yahoo.com or 1.670.234.5416 or Dawn Sarmiento at dawnsarmiento@yahoo.com. Bikers from Saipan who register for the race will be able to travel on the Feb. 15 ferry to Tinian at 5pm.

The MVA will offer ferry service between Tinian and Saipan on Feb. 15-18, 2018. The ferry schedule is: Feb. 15, departing Saipan at 5pm and departing Tinian that evening; Feb. 16, departing Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 4pm; Feb. 17, departing Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 4pm; and Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 12pm. The *Super Emerald* ferry will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base, passengers and must check in one hour before departure.

Ferry round trip cost is $25 for ages 3-11, $35 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is $10 for ages 3-11, $18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis.

MVA

The 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 16-17, 2019, featuring live entertainment, competitions, local food sales, and more at Kammer Beach, Tinian.

Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office on Tinian or Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

The event is co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and Tinian Municipal Council and sponsored by Bicycling Association of Tinian and MVA members. Campgrounds are open to the public at Kammer Beach, which has restrooms, outdoor showers, and five pavilions with sink and barbecue grills. Available hotels on island are Tinian Ocean View and Lorilynn's Hotel. Air service from Saipan to Tinian is provided by Star Marianas. Airport shuttle will be offered by the MVA to and from the festival site, which will be in San Jose village.

For more information on the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or the MVA Facebook page, call the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365, or email MVA Tinian Field supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Airman departs for deployment in Southwest Asia

An Airman, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, departed for a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Southwest Asia.

Staff Sgt. Carlos Paulino will be supporting a 254th Air Base Group, specifically a Cyber Flight mission, to provide quality communication systems and services to its units worldwide, to include equipping, administering, training and providing personnel, to operate and maintain good ground communications, electronics and computer systems and facilities. He will be deployed for approximately six months.

More Airmen are scheduled to leave in the coming days and weeks as required. Staff Sgt. Paulino will be deployed for approximately six months. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Carlos Paulino, fifth from right, is assigned to the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, but will be supporting a 254th Air Base Group Cyber Flight mission, poses for a photo with his family and GUANG Airmen and leadership at the Guam International Airport Authority this morning, just prior to departing for a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Southwest Asia.

Military to conduct training at WA-517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct open-water training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 29 from noon to 11:55pm
- Jan. 30 from noon to 11:59pm
- Jan. 31 from 12:01-1am and noon to 11:55pm

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 8am to 8pm Jan. 30.

It is recommended the general public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks will be closed for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10"N/144° 30"E, 13° 10"N/144° 42"E, 12° 50"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/143° 00"E, 11° 45"N/143° 00"E, 12° 50"N/144° 30"E.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. Farallon de Medinilla, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, supports aircrew combat readiness training.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/DPHS-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 13, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

"SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT) IMPLEMENTATION DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/H.O.M.E VISITING-006

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

"LEASED VEHICLE H.O.M.E VISITING PROGRAM COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP19-OGM-049

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 01, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CNMI STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA E-MAIL TO **epi.cabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 15, 2019.**

A **PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** IS SCHEDULED NO LATER THAN **10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 19, 2019** AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE HONORABLE JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

FEMA mitigation advisor offers rebuilding advise

The Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to offer advice directly to individuals repairing and rebuilding structures damaged by Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu.

Harold Atwell, a mitigation advisor, has visited with nearly 800 people on Saipan in the past weeks about how to rebuild safer, smarter, and stronger. Simple measures can make homes and other buildings much more resistant to disasters.

In fact, research shows that mitigation actions save up to $6 in damages for every dollar invested. Atwell will visit three more Saipan hardware stores between Jan. 26 and Feb. 6 to help residents and building professionals understand the steps they can take now to better guard against damage from wind and water. Please see the schedule below, and we ask for your help sharing this information with the public.

Guang Dong Hardware

Jan. 25-26, from 8am to 4:30pm

As Lito Road, Chalan Kanoa

Hong Ye Hardware

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, from 8am to 4:30pm

Afetna Road, San Antonio

Transamerica Corp

Feb. 5-6, from 8am to 4:30pm

Middle Road, Chalan Lau Lau

Some of the people with whom Atwell has visited in January described the success of the actions they took after Typhoon Soudelor when Yutu struck Saipan. ***(PR)***

KABOOM! KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Over 1,000 Unexploded Ordnances collected on Saipan were denoted Thursday in Marpi.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel and members of the U.S Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas pose for a photo following the detonation last Thursday in Marpi.

UOG to release Guam Corruption Perception Report

How does the perception of corruption in Guam compare to other populations and countries? The University of Guam Regional Center for Public Policy will be releasing its findings in the first-ever Guam Corruption Perception Report.

A press conference featuring this report would be held at 11am on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in the SBPA Dean's Conference Room located on the second floor of the School of Business and Public Administration Building on the UOG campus.

A research team led by Dr. Maria Claret Ruane will present the corruption measure for Guam, which is based on data from a 2015 UOG survey and uses the corruption index and methodology developed by Transparency International.

Panelists will include:

■ Dr. Maria Claret Ruane, Professor of Economics

■ Dr. Annette T. Santos, dean, School of Business and Public Administration

■ Dr. John J. Rivera, director, UOG Regional Center for Public Policy

The authors of the report are Ruane, Dr. Gena Rojas, assistant professor of Community Development; UOG alumna Luisa Tenorio; and UOG students Daniel Cayanan, Jun Patrick Salalila, and Christian Valencia. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam to launch Installation Base Shuttle Program

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) will launch an Installation Base Shuttle Program on Jan. 28 in an effort to provide pedestrian safety, ensure readiness of our deployed forces and permanently assigned warfighters, and offer consistent, predictable, and reliable transportation.

An Installation Shuttle Program will provide benefit and ease of access to the installation's medical resources, as well as Quality of Life resources for over 4,100 permanently assigned warfighters and over 36,000 deployed personnel operating between NBG, NBG-Polaris Point, and NBG-Naval Hospital Guam.

The shuttle service may be provided for:

■ Military personnel and Department of Defense (DoD) employees.

■ Enlisted personnel traveling between berthing, places of duty, and dining facilities.

■ DoD contractor personnel conducting official business.

■ Employees of non-DoD Federal Agencies on official business on a space available basis only.

■ DoD personnel and dependents who require additional support (medical, commissary, and religious) which directly affects health, morale, and welfare of the family.

There will be two shuttles: one for main base and another shuttle for Sailors and eligible personnel who require safe transportation to NBG-Naval Hospital Guam and NBG- Polaris Point when applicable.

The Hours of Operation for the shuttle to Main Base, Naval Hospital and Polaris Point are as follows:

a. Shuttle Operations: Monday - Friday

(1) Main Base: 5:30am-8pm

(2) USNH Guam, and Polaris Point (when applicable): 6am-6pm

b. Shuttle Operations: Saturday

(1) Main Base: 5:30am-8pm

(2) USNH Guam, and Polaris Point (when applicable): 5:30am-6:30am, and 7pm-8pm

c. Shuttle Operations: Sunday

(1) Main Base: 5:30am-7pm

(2) USNH Guam, and Polaris Point (when applicable): 5:30am-6:30am, and 7pm-8pm

d. Shuttle Operations: Holidays

(1) Main Base: 5:30am-6pm

(2) USNH Guam, and Polaris Point (when applicable): 5:30am-6:30am, and 7pm-8pm

The Transportation Routes for the main base shuttle are as follows:

Main Gate Loading Area (Boller VET Clinic) to Bus Stop 577 (Camp Covington)

Bus Stop 577 (Camp Covington) to Victor Welcome Area Structure 6020 (near U.S. Naval Base Guam Security Detachment)

Structure 6020 to Bus Stop 7012A (in front of Wendy's)

Bus Stop 7012A to Bus Stop 2122-A (Port Operations)

Bus Stop 2122-A to Mini-NEX

Mini-NEX to Bus Stop 73 (Unaccompanied Housing Area)

Bus Stop 73 to Charles King Fitness Center

Charles King Fitness Center to Bus Stop 7012A (Wendy's)

Bus Stop 7012A (Wendy's) to Navy Exchange (Hours for this bus route: 9am-8pm, Monday - Saturday; 9am-7pm, Sunday; and 9am-6pm, on holidays)

Bus Stop 7012A (Wendy's) to Victor Welcome Area Structure 6020

Victor Welcome Area Structure 6020 to Bus Stop 577 (Camp Covington)

Bus Stop 577 to Main Gate Loading Area

Unless noted, the hours of operation for the main base shuttle are: 5:30am-8pm, Monday through Saturday; 5:30am-7pm on Sunday; and 5:30am-6pm on holidays. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 29, 2000

CPA draws out plans to save direct flights

Discussions are now underway between major government agencies to facilitate ways that may help save direct flights between Saipan and two major areas in Asia which the Commonwealth may permanently lose. Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed the Commonwealth Ports Authority has been in coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority since reports on the possible pullout of Mandarin Airlines surfaced earlier this month. According to Mr. Salas, the discussion, which also involves the Air Service Committee of the Strategic Economic Development Council, was launched to explore possible means that would help Mandarin Airlines continue with its deployment of flights between Saipan and Taipei.

House body Oks mediation program

A proposal seeking to validate Commonwealth rules that would employ court-appointed certified mediators to step into disputes between conflicting parties has won the approval of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Recognizing the merits of out-of-court settlements that promote and preserve pleasant relations between dissenting individuals, the Committee has recommended that the House of Representatives approve the measure. In a report submitted to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, JGO committee members cited that the mediation program will be helpful in enhancing an amiable resolution to disputes, particularly in small and close-knit communities in the Northern Marianas.

January 29, 2005

Japan-bound planes lead road to recovery

Japan-bound air carriers led CNMI airlines on the road to recovery in 2004, posting the biggest growth in terms of enplanement. An air carrier activity report issued by the Commonwealth Ports Authority showed that most airlines registered increased enplanement in fiscal year 2004, reflecting the local tourism industry's recovery from the impact of the Iraq conflict and the SARS outbreak in 2003. Northwest Airlines served a total of 170,210 departing passengers in fiscal year 2004, exceeding by 63 percent the number of passengers it enplaned in FY 2003. The airline also surpassed by almost 50 percent its pre-9/11 enplanement level; only 114,390 Japan-bound passengers took Northwest flights out of Saipan in 2000.

Principals updated on changes to special education laws

The Public School System reminded all schools and their principals of their responsibility to uphold quality education, which includes expanding that mandate to include children with disabilities. During the PSS' Principals' Meeting held last Jan. 27 at the Aqua Resort Club, the PSS chose to focus on the role that schools and teachers play in making sure that they foster an environment, where children with developmental disabilities are given to tools that will enable their inclusion in the community. The event was attended by all principals from Saipan, Rota and Tinian. PSS officials also attended the event. The one-day seminar updated the education officials on why continuous monitoring should be observed by schools in dealing with handicapped students.

January 29, 2006

Fitial plans to appoint new MPLT trustees

The Fitial administration is looking at simply appointing new trustees to the Marianas Public Land Trust to address issues concerning the agency. Like the Marianas Public Lands Authority, the MPLT Board of Trustees has been criticized for alleged misuse of public funds. Fitial has already announced that MPLA would be abolished by legislation. But it may not easy to do the same thing with MPLT. Since there are three vacancies on the five-person Board of Trustees, Fitial has the opportunity to simply find three persons who meet constitutional requirements to serve on the board, Willens said.

'Autonomous no more'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will cease to be an autonomous agency and will instead become a division of the Department of Public Works when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's first executive order becomes effective in two months. Executive Order 2006-1, which forms part of Fitial's government reorganization plan, will abolish the CUC board of directors and transfer its functions to DPW.

Pursuant to the order, CUC will be headed by a chief executive officer, rather than an executive director. He or she will have the rank of a division director.

Signed by Fitial on Jan. 27, 2006, the executive order will take effect 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless modified or disapproved by a majority of each house. In the meantime, CUC will remain in direct control by the administration in accordance to Fitial's state of emergency declaration for CUC.

Congress introduces bill to ban US shark fin trade

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) and Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) introduced the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act to ban the buying and selling of shark fins in the United States. Shark finning, the practice of cutting the fins off a shark and discarding its body at sea, is illegal in U.S. waters. However, fins are still traded, imported and exported throughout the U.S., including from countries that do not have adequate protections in place for their shark species.

The global shark fin trade is one of the largest contributors to the decline of shark populations around the world, with the fins from as many as 73 million sharks ending up in the market every year. Reps. Ed Royce (R-CA) and Sablan introduced similar legislation (H.R. 1456) in the 115th Congress, which gained 262 cosponsors in the House, including 11 committee chairs. Companion legislation overwhelmingly passed the Senate Commerce Committee, however, time ran out at the end of the year before Congress could pass the bill.

Oceana applauded the bill's re-introduction and released the following statement from campaign director Whitney Webber:

"Banning the U.S. shark fin trade has overwhelming support from the conservation, business and coastal recreation industries, and is a critical step for shark conservation. This legislation would improve enforcement of state fin bans and reinforce the status of the United States as a leader in shark conservation.

» Global fin trade is 1 of greatest threats to shark populations worldwide

Rarely do we find an issue that can bring together the political, business and conservation communities as this bill. Eight in 10 Americans support a fin trade ban, as do many congressional leaders. This bipartisan legislation is a sensible, non-partisan way for the U.S. to lead in shark conservation. A national fin ban is something that both sides of the aisle can agree is good for our oceans, and good for the tourism jobs and businesses that depend on healthy shark populations.

Last year, we were just inches from the finish line in passing this bill. It's time to make a U.S. fin ban a reality. We commend Representatives Sablan and McCaul for their bipartisan leadership in re-introducing this legislation that will set a new standard for shark conservation. Americans want the U.S. out of the shark fin trade. Twelve states have already passed shark fin bans, and now it is time for national action."

The bill currently has 51 bipartisan original cosponsors.

"The strong, bipartisan support for this legislation sends a clear message that we have to pay more attention to protecting the Earth's oceans and the life within those oceans. Banning the sale of shark fins to help end this wasteful and cruel practice is important, but just a small step on the way to giving the oceans the full respect they must have in federal law. Ultimately, all life on Earth depends on the health of the oceans," said Sablan,.

"I am proud to help introduce the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, which builds upon existing federal law and state initiatives to ban the sale, purchase, or procession of shark fins in the United States. The gruesome shark-finning practices are decimating populations and putting many species on the brink of extinction. This sound bipartisan legislation will promote conservation and responsible fishing practices that are good for the environment and our economy," said McCaul.

"As the largest economy in the world, how we conduct our commerce has a profound impact on global markets and greatly influences others' economic behavior. It is long since time we leverage our economic might against shark-finning and work to counter the larger issue of animal poaching and the illicit trafficking of animal parts," he added.

The global shark fin trade has led to the brutal practice of shark finning, where the fins are removed and the bodies thrown back into the ocean, only to drown, starve or die a slow death. Some shark populations have declined by more than 90 percent in recent decades due to overfishing, and one-third of identified shark species in the Hong Kong fin trade, the historic center of the global trade, are threatened with extinction.

In March 2017, Oceana released an independent report finding that shark-related dives in Florida generated more than $221 million in revenue and fueled over 3,700 jobs in 2016. This stands in stark contrast with the total U.S. shark fin export market (under $1 million in 2016).

Supporters of a shark fin ban include 12 U.S. states, 40 airlines, 20 shipping companies, seven major corporations and over 645 U.S. businesses and organizations. According to a 2016 national poll, 8 in 10 Americans support a national ban on the buying and selling of shark fins. Additionally, more than 150 scientists, 150 chefs and 85 surfers and surf businesses have sent letters to Congress urging the passage of a national shark fin ban.

To share this release, please use the following link: https://bit.ly/2WcKzXz

Oceana is the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation. Oceana is rebuilding abundant and biodiverse oceans by winning science-based policies in countries that control one third of the world's wild fish catch. With more than 200 victories that stop overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution and killing of threatened species like turtles and sharks, Oceana's campaigns are delivering results. A restored ocean means that one billion people can enjoy a healthy seafood meal, every day, forever. Together, we can save the oceans and help feed the world. Visit usa.oceana.org to learn more. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard patrols South Pacific in support of international fisheries

HONOLULU, HI—Following a stop in Fiji in late January, the crew of the Coast Guard *Cutter Mellon* (WHEC 717) continue their South Pacific patrol in support of counter-Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing and global security missions.

The presence of a high endurance Coast Guard cutter conducting operations in the region demonstrates the U.S. commitment to regional partnerships and strengthening a coalition of like-minded countries to strengthen regional maritime governance and promote a rules-based regime for fisheries.

Mellon's crew is supporting international fisheries on the high seas and enforcement of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Upon arrival in the WCPFC convention area, they partnered with the Canadian Armed Forces who flew seven reconnaissance flights improving maritime domain awareness and aiding in the enforcement of the WCPFC convention. Patrolling over 1,110 square miles within the WCPFC convention area, the *Mellon*'s law enforcement team boarded two vessels, one fishing vessel and one bunkering vessel. Both boardings resulted in potential violations of conservation management measures including high seas transshipment and specifications for the marking and identification of fishing vessels.

"Participating in the WCPFC ties into a broader strategy the Coast Guard is pursuing in the Indo-Pacific region," said Capt. Stephen Burdian, commanding officer, cutter *Mellon*. "Throughout the area, the U.S., and by extension the Coast Guard, is encouraging relationships respecting the sovereignty, supporting fair and reciprocal trade, and the rule of law in an open and free Oceania. Through a tactical lens, that strategy looks like a Coast Guard boarding of a foreign fishing vessel, while on the high seas or in a sovereign Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) jointly with a member of that country's enforcement team. On this patrol, we are fortunate to have excellent support from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and our Canadian counterparts."

While on a port call in conjunction with the US Embassy in Suva, Fiji, the crew strengthened partnerships with Pacific Islands Nation communities by participating in community relations events at a local animal shelter, children's hospital and garden. At the animal shelter crew members engaged with kittens and puppies while giving animals baths and general clean-up of the shelter. At the children's hospital and garden, the crew read books to children and tidied up the garden area.

Mellon's crew of 150 departed their homeport of Seattle shortly after Christmas. They made a brief stop in Hawaii for fuel and supplies. This stop was leveraged for training as the crew conducted Astern Re-fueling-at-Sea training with the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Joseph Gerczak* (WPC 1126). Also, they worked with Air Station Barbers Point crews to complete 72 shipboard helicopter evolutions over three days, resulting in the qualification of three M H-65 Dolphin helicopter pilots and 10 flight deck personnel aboard Mellon. The cutter also embarked two Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans Officers, two U.S. Navy Aerographer's Mates, and one U.S. Marine Corps Mandarin translator while in Hawaii for the upcoming operations. The crew is more than 8,000 miles into their patrol and have taken every opportunity for professional development with more than 40 crew earning new qualifications.

Oceania covers an area of 3.3 million square miles and has a population of 40 million and is home to some of our valued strategic partners in the Pacific Island Nations as well as Australia and New Zealand, with whom the U.S. has aligned for more than a century.

The importance of the Pacific Islands is very evident as the Coast Guard continues operations in the region and the U.S. strengthens partnerships with the governments of these nations. We recognize tourism and exports, both requiring a great deal of commercial vessel traffic, are a primary economic driver. Tuna represented a nearly $5 billion industry in 2015 with more than half the world's tuna is sourced from the Western Pacific. In 2017 reported landings were 2.5 million tons of fish.

The presence of a high-endurance cutter in this part of the Pacific to enforce Conservation and Management Measures established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission represents the U.S. and the Service's commitment to our partnerships in the region. This body represents another essential collaboration. The WCPFC is an international body made up of 43 nations and international organizations. Members agree to allow the 13-enforcer nations in the pact to board and record any potential violations on their nationally flagged vessels. The findings go to the WCPFC who notifies the vessel's flag state of the suspected infraction for further investigation.

"The U.S. Coast Guard and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans have a long history of working together to ensure the viability of fish stocks off North America. Working with experts from Canada and regional leaders like Fiji is vital to ensuring food security and the rule of law in Oceania," said Capt. Robert Hendrickson, Chief of Response for Coast Guard 14th District. "Working together we are helping to ensure a more secure, free and open Indo-Pacific." ***(PR)***

GAMSUN PROJECT ERWIN ENCINARES

Lead lifeguard course instructor Glenn Policare, second from left, poses with students of 500 Sails' Gamsun Project, an advanced swim class aimed at training aspiring lifeguards.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Yes, I was smoking marijuana, but this wreck is not my fault! I've got a medical marijuana card!
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EDITORIAL

Government shutdown ends as a senseless act by Trump

The 35-day partial government shutdown orchestrated by President and supposed artful dealmaker Donald Trump that came to a possibly temporary end Friday was one of the most senseless acts of his administration. Trump's announcement that he and congressional leaders had agreed to fund the government for three weeks was a relief. But it should also lead even the most loyal Trump follower to ask the obvious question: What good did it do? What was gained by grossly inconveniencing 800,000 federal workers and millions of other Americans affected by stopped or slowed government services?

The answer is absolutely nothing. Trump is no closer to funding for a border wall than the day the shutdown began, and his State of the Union speech is in limbo. One point being made everywhere can't be made enough: The Republican president demanded something from a House newly controlled by Democrats that he couldn't get from the House for two years when it was controlled by Republicans.

Trump's election in 2016 remains a landmark moment in U.S. history — a confirmation of the disillusionment of millions of Americans. Most of these Americans may be satisfied with Trump because of the health of the economy and his successful nominations of two conservative Supreme Court justices. But the president's chaotic, impulsive management style has never been more self-evident. If there is another government shutdown in three weeks because Trump believes he can get House Democrats to cave on the border wall, here's another adjective to describe his management style: delusional.

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Is masculinity toxic or under assault?

By CATHY YOUNG
Los Angeles Times

Cathy Young is a contributing editor to Reason magazine and the author of "Ceasefire: Why Women and Men Must Join Forces to Achieve True Equality."

Is there a war on men and maleness in America?

Last week, a new Gillette razor company ad inspired by the #MeToo campaign was quickly denounced for supposedly slandering men as boorish and abusive.

And earlier this month, the American Psychological Association was attacked for its new guidelines on male mental health, which critics said were biased against masculinity.

Both controversies, which are still raging, have pitted "woke" progressives against defenders of traditional manhood. But each side is mired in its own stereotypes while missing the complex realities.

Take the now-infamous Gillette ad, "We Believe," which offers a parade of men and boys behaving badly as an unseen voice speaks of bullying, sexual harassment and "toxic masculinity." A chorus of dads chimes in with "Boys will be boys." Then, after a montage of #MeToo news and a call for change, the ad shifts to "good" men, shown caring for their children, stopping fights, standing up to the bullies and jerks.

The ad's defenders argue that the message is inspiring, not insulting. As the tagline puts it, it's about "the best men can be."

Some of the angry responses to the ad were over the top, and yet the detractors have a point. Take the way the ad exhorts men to start doing and saying "the right thing," and then continues: "Some already are. But some is not enough." This suggests decent men are a minority while brutes are the norm. What's more, some of the "toxic" behavior shown is pretty innocuous, such as teenage boys ogling bikini-clad babes on television. (Should we shame girls who drool over cute male pop stars?) The ad also blurs the line between fighting and roughhousing, implicitly condemning the physical play styles more common among boys.

The APA guidelines are a more complicated story. Some of the critiques take aim at things it doesn't say — such as "toxic masculinity," a phrase that never appears in the document. The guidelines have also been assailed for claiming that "traditional masculinity — marked by stoicism, competitiveness, dominance and aggression — is, on the whole, harmful." However, that statement comes not from the guidelines themselves but from an essay about them on the association's website.

The actual guidelines, nonbinding recommendations to clinical practitioners, are a mixed bag. They acknowledge problems that disproportionately affect men and boys, from poor school performance to suicide, substance abuse and violence. One section extensively discusses the benefits of father involvement, including activities that promote healthy competition.

While the guidelines do take a negative view of many masculine norms, they also emphasize helping patients understand "diverse and healthy" expressions of masculinity. Therapists are urged to be sensitive to typically male attitudes and behaviors (including how depression may manifest itself in men), but are also warned not to assume that all men fit that mold. The text even notes that men can be victims of partner abuse by women and that abused men may be denied help because of stereotypical assumptions.

One problem is that while there is helpful content, it often drips with gender-studies dogma. There's much talk about "traditional masculinity ideology," sometimes questionably defined. (Religious traditionalists will be surprised to learn that "traditional masculinity" includes sexual promiscuity.) Sex differences in behavior are treated as entirely the product of socialization, even though the question of nature versus nurture is far from settled. Psychologists working with men and boys are advised to address male "privilege and power."

This is difficult to square with the empathetic advice in other sections: Try explaining male privilege to a male spousal abuse victim whom the cops are treating as the perpetrator, or a divorced dad struggling to stay afloat and be an involved parent.

Clearly, the would-be reformers of masculinity have their ideological blinders. But many of manhood's defenders have limitations too. Conservative critics such as National Review columnist David French argue that what the APA calls "masculinity ideology" is simply male nature. Yet, despite some constants (males are more physically aggressive than females in virtually every society and in most mammal species), norms for everything from male emotional expression to aggression levels vary among cultures and subcultures, just as actual male behavior varies among individuals. Some men are risk-takers or driven achievers; plenty are not. Even if average trends for men and women are linked to biology, that's no reason to label leadership as "masculine" or caring as "feminine."

Gender norms have undergone dramatic shifts in our time. Work and achievement as well as family are essential goals for both sexes now, and egalitarian marriage and involved fatherhood are widely shared ideals. Unfortunately, along with values that emphasize equal partnership, we have seen the rise of a polarizing feminism that fixates on male misconduct — including such trivial offenses as sitting with knees apart — while ignoring women's capacity for bad behavior.

Amid cultural upheaval, there is a very real need for constructive messages about maleness — including criticism of "toxic" attitudes that confuse bullying with manliness or scorn help-seeking as unmanly.

See MASCULINITY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

To the Covington students let us wish wisdom

By MARY SANCHEZ
Tribune Content Agency

Readers can reach Mary Sanchez at msanchezcolumn@gmail.com and follow her on Twitter @msanchezcolumn.

The young men of Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills, Ky., have been rudely and crudely handed an incredible opportunity.

These are the students who gathered on the National Mall on the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, meeting up to march in an anti-abortion March for Life, and inadvertently stumbled into a political minefield.

They gathered within earshot of a small group of Black Hebrew Israelites and a small gathering of Native Americans who had earlier marched in a demonstration of their own.

The Black Hebrew Israelites and the students began exchanging words and gestures and chants, and at some point a Native American elder marched between the sides, chanting and beating a drum. This culminated in a sort of stare-down between the drummer and a white student, viral images of which took off around the world before any context could be provided.

The confrontation is still hotly debated, and it has become another set piece of our interminable national political drama.

Judging from lengthy video evidence, the young men of Covington reacted to the situation as many teenagers would: cluelessly and immaturely.

And that will remain the upshot if the students do nothing more with it — not necessarily today but when they are older and not surrounded by worried parents, hired crisis managers and conservative media bent on using the incident to "own the libs."

For those of good will and open mind, the salient lessons of the confrontation are how susceptible social media are to deception, and how easily social media users can be turned into a howling mob.

When the story first trended on Twitter, less than four minutes of video was available, and it presented the young men in a highly unfavorable light. Shortly thereafter, nearly two hours of further footage became available, and while it also didn't really do the students any favors, it filled in some missing context.

I watched the full video, beginning with the antics of the Black Hebrew Israelites early Sunday morning. I've followed the aftermath and have been mortified, but not surprised, that online trolls have viciously come down on the teenagers, their school and community.

> I accept the possibility that Covington junior Nick Sandmann's much-discussed smirk as he stared down Omaha elder Nathan Phillips wasn't meant as a taunt. It may have been the grin of a teenager who was temporarily bewildered and yet conditioned to stand his ground. Sandmann may also have instinctively regarded Phillips as his inferior, and meant to let him know. We don't know.

The Israelites deserve condemnation for their provocative tactics. They knew what they were doing. It's their thing to hurl insults and slurs at anyone who dares to come within their view. On the day in question they had a target-rich environment: Native Americans, women and the white young men.

"We love you as much as Donald Trump loves us," one of the Black Hebrew Israelites yelled at the young men, many of whom were wearing Trump's trademark red MAGA hats.

That's a statement with two meanings: Trump doesn't love us, and we don't love you. Then again, the slogan on the Trump hat also has many meanings. Make America great again? Like when our nation refused to even recognize native people as citizens? Like when it barred immigrants from nonwhite parts of the world? Have the students ever considered that Donald Trump's slogan is inseparable for many people from his highly prejudicial policies and declarations?

I accept the possibility that Covington junior Nick Sandmann's much-discussed smirk as he stared down Omaha elder Nathan Phillips wasn't meant as a taunt. It may have been the grin of a teenager who was temporarily bewildered and yet conditioned to stand his ground. Sandmann may also have instinctively regarded Phillips as his inferior, and meant to let him know. We don't know.

Why didn't he, or any of the young men, consider it an option to speak with Phillips? Was it unfathomable that this elderly man deserved that most basic level of respect?

In the video, some students looked uneasy and uncertain about how to behave. Others performed a tomahawk chop and jokingly joined in Phillips' chanting, probably not understanding it as prayer.

What do we know about the students who appear in the video? Some likely come from families of considerable social and financial capital. Many likely grew up knowing that they will be college graduates; some may know that they won't be paying the tuition themselves. All benefit from an exclusive private education. Most likely have a bright future ahead of them, and some no doubt will ascend to positions of power and influence.

How will they perform then?

The term "white privilege" is often carelessly applied to such lucky backgrounds. It's often poorly explained and dumped on people.

My hope for the young men of Covington is that they will explore their experiences and influences with depth and honesty. That they will be able to move on from this encounter without adopting a sense of victimhood.

As one young man noted in the video, many aren't old enough to vote yet.

They will be one day. May this experience add to their wisdom as citizens.

Roger Stone's indictment was expected to tighten the noose around Trump. It didn't

By MICHAEL MCGOUGH
Los Angeles Times

The long-expected filing of charges against the flamboyant political operative Roger Stone will cause a lot of President Donald Trump's detractors to believe that the legal noose around the president is tightening. Not necessarily.

It's not surprising that White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders reacted to Stone's arrest by saying: "The charges brought against Mr. Stone have nothing to do with the president." That's too categorical a dismissal, but if what she means is that the charges don't implicate Trump, she's correct.

Stone is charged with one count of obstruction of an official proceeding, five counts of false statements and one count of witness tampering. The charges in the indictment returned by a federal grand jury relate to Stone's alleged contacts with WikiLeaks, which released Democratic emails that were hacked by Russian operatives during the campaign.

The indictment also contains these tantalizing assertions: 1) "Stone was contacted by senior Trump campaign officials to inquire about future releases by Organization 1," a reference to WikiLeaks. 2) "Stone spoke to multiple individuals involved in the Trump campaign about what he claimed to have learned from his intermediary to Organization 1." 3) "After the July 22, 2016, release of stolen DNC emails by Organization 1, a senior Trump campaign official was directed to contact Stone about any additional releases and what other damaging information Organization 1 had regarding the Clinton campaign."

These allegations more than hint at the possibility that figures in the Trump campaign were, at a remove, conspiring with WikiLeaks (and by extension Russia) to harm the Clinton campaign. But was Trump one of them? The indictment doesn't say so.

But surely, the charges against Stone, like previous indictments of campaign officials Paul Manafort and Rick Gates, must be viewed as steppingstones along the way to an accusation that Trump engaged in wrongdoing. Isn't Trump the ultimate target of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation?

Actually, no. Although both Trump and some of his critics seem to think Mueller's investigation is all about the president, Mueller's mandate from the Justice Department doesn't say that. The special counsel is charged with investigating "any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump" and "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation."

These directions obviously permit Mueller to scrutinize Trump's conduct and state of knowledge, but the investigation was never narrowly about the president, despite what many people — apparently including Stone — believe. (On Friday, Stone promised that he would not "bear false witness against the president.")

For now, the president and his defenders can argue that the president is not in Mueller's sights. Obviously that could change. But no one should assume that Mueller is inexorably proceeding to a devastating accusation against Trump that will lead to the president's impeachment and removal. Trump's detractors should keep their wishful thinking under control.

MASCULINITY

From Page 10

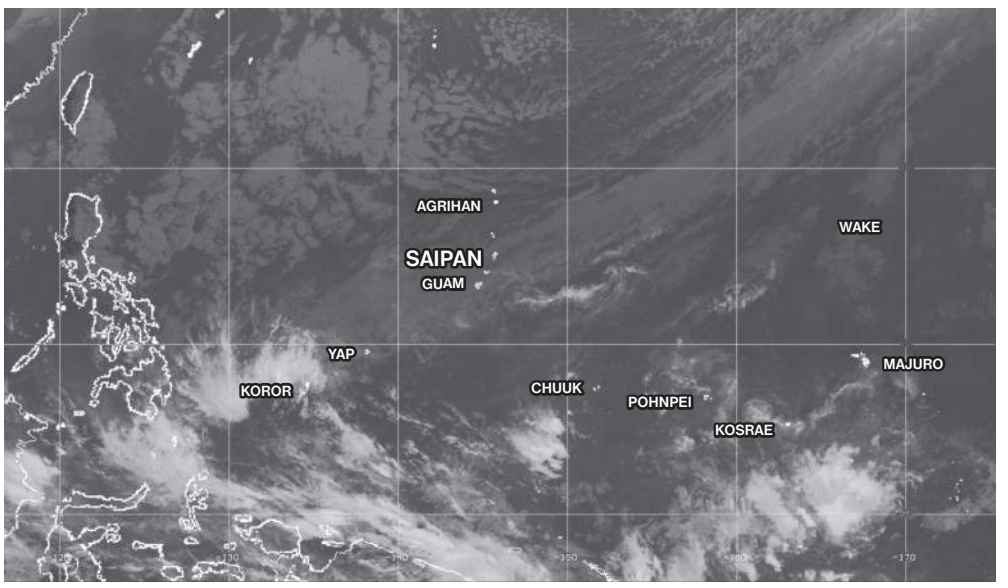
But the key word is "constructive." The well-intentioned Gillette ad lapses into male-shaming that undercuts its positive point. The APA guidelines get bogged down in ideological shibboleths that contradict their own male-friendly language. If traditionalist claims about male nature don't capture the reality of many men's lives, neither do progressive claims about male power. Beyond the stereotypes, the simple truth is that men, like women, are human.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

It was quite the dreary night with mainly light rain over Guam. Based on the latest radar imagery, a large area of showers has moved south of Guam and extends eastward. Guidance keeps showers over the region mainly for Guam, but there could be enough activity in the coastal waters to warrant scattered wording today. Guidance is in less agreement tonight, so scattered could end up being overdone. Showers should become more isolated tonight and continue for the remainder of the week, as the shear line moves south.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	82° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	41° / 16°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Windy	78° / 69°
London	Rain	43° / 32°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	93° / 64°
Miami	Sunny	70° / 57°
New York	Rain	44° / 23°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 41°
Paris	Mixed	41° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Rome	Showers	52° / 34°
Salem	Rain	45° / 23°
San Francisco	Cloudy	57° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	45° / 21°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°
Washington, DC	Rain	43° / 21°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.40
8:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.94
2:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
9:46 PM	LOW TIDE	0.16

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:06 AM	12:59 PM	-
Wednesday	1:59 AM	1:43 PM	-
Thursday	2:51 AM	2:29 PM	-
Friday	3:43 AM	3:17 PM	-
Saturday	4:33 AM	4:06 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

JRM, Guam governor meet, discuss partnership

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield welcomed newly elected Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio to the JRM headquarters in Asan last Jan. 24.

During the meeting, Leon Guerrero and Tenorio, along with their senior staff, were briefed on the mission and operations of the command; the military's economic contribution to the island; the Defense Support of Civil Authorities; progress of the Marine Corps relocation; and existing and future partnership opportunities with military on island.

"Working with the new administration will be a big part of ensuring our mission to protect Guam and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Chatfield. "I value our relationship with the government of Guam and we look forward to working with the governor in the years ahead to continue to strengthen our commitment to One Guam."

Following the meeting, the governor expressed her gratitude for the hospitality and partnership extended to her and her staff.

"As we begin our administration, it is critical that we develop and maintain a strong and mutual partnership with the military on Guam," she said. "There are great challenges ahead of us and I look forward to working with Joint Region Marianas in ensuring a unified voice on issues important to our island and people." ***(PR)***

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ALANA CHARGUALAF

Chief Operations Specialist Nestor Martinezvasquez greets Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero at the Joint Region Marianas headquarters in Asan last Jan. 24. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio visited the command and received a brief from JRM Commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield and other senior leadership about military operations on the island.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ALANA CHARGUALAF

Civilians of Joint Region Marianas greet Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio at the JRM headquarters in Asan last Jan. 24. Leon Guerrero and Tenorio visited the command and received a brief from JRM Commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield and other senior leadership about military operations on the island.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ALANA CHARGUALAF

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero speaks to Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield during a meeting at the command headquarters in Asan last Jan. 24. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio visited the JRM headquarters where Chatfield and other senior leadership briefed her about military operations on the island.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ALANA CHARGUALAF

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas welcomes Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, left, and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, center, to the command in Asan last Jan. 24. Leon Guerrero visited the JRM headquarters where Chatfield and other senior leadership briefed her about military operations on the island.

UOG announces new administrators

The University of Guam is pleased to announce the following new administrators:

- Lawrence F. Camacho

Dean, Enrollment Management & Student Services

Lawrence F. Camacho has joined the University of Guam as the dean of Enrollment Management & Student Success. He is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel with more than 21 years of active duty service. He comes to UOG from Drexel University in Philadelphia, where he taught military science and leadership, served as the chairman of the Military Science Department, and was responsible for the recruitment, enrollment, instruction, and leader development of more than 100 ROTC cadets.

Camacho holds a 1997 bachelor's in public administration from UOG, a 2007 master's in leadership and liberal studies from Duquesne University in Pennsylvania, a 2009 master's in military arts and science from the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in Kansas, and a 2018 master's in higher education administration from the University of Louisville in Kentucky. He is working toward his doctorate in educational leadership and management with a concentration in higher education from Drexel University.

- Rachael T. Leon Guerrero

Director, Research & Sponsored Programs

Rachael T. Leon Guerrero now heads the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs following several months as interim director of the office and three and a half years as associate director of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center. In her new capacity, she will collaborate with the University's research centers on research agendas that support UOG's mission of engagement.

Leon Guerrero has been with UOG for 20 years, the majority of that time as a professor of nutrition in the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. She is the principal investigator of the U54 Cancer Research Partnership Grant and co-investigator of the Pacific Islands Cohort on Cardiometabolic Health Study. She holds a 1989 bachelor's in biology from UOG, a 1992 master's in nutrition from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a 1998 doctorate in nutrition from Colorado State University.

- Monique C. Storie

Dean, University Libraries

Monique C. Storie has been named the dean of University Libraries, overseeing the daily operations of the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center, the RFK Memorial Library, University of Guam Press, and the building of the Guam Cultural Repository. She has been serving as interim dean, following her stints as director of MARC and interim director of the RFK Memorial Library.

Storie holds a bachelor's in Spanish from Arizona State University, a master's in library science, and a doctorate in language reading and culture, the latter two from the University of Arizona. ***(PR)***

#moneysense

BEA CABRERA

Embracing independence is a start to navigate yourself in the kind of life you want to live in the future.

Embrace being independent

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Living independently is different in every culture. For some, reaching the age of 18 means moving out of the parents' house to get a college degree, a job, and start a life. There are situations that even while children are still under the care and supervision of the parents, they are encouraged to work so they can start to save and have spending money of their own.

No matter what norm or traditional being followed for one to start to live independently, the end goal is to navigate one's self to the kind of future that he or she envisions. We have heard all the quotes, captions, and even song lyrics about going out on your own, making a name for yourself, pursue one's destiny, and ultimately being dependent on no one but yourself. But the better question is, how do we embrace being independent?

"Are you ready?" This is a tough question as you won't get the answer until actually you made the leap and have personal experience. Being prepared and managing expectations are good ways to start as this easily outlines your priorities, needs, and wants when you decide to live on your own.

OUTLINE POSSIBLE EXPENSES. This includes housing, food, transportation, education, clothes, extra-curricular activities, healthcare, to name a few. Going out there with an outline of responsibilities equip you with rational thinking and this way whatever money comes in does not go to waste because you have an outline that enumerates all the things that you need money for.

GET A JOB. A job will be your source of income. Look for what interests you, how much it will pay, what your degree will be beneficial in, and consider location as a job close to where you live lessens the burden of transportations.

PRACTICE SOUND FINANCIAL HABITS. Being disciplined in knowing what income comes in and what comes out will give you solid financial ground. How you take care of your financial situation may affect decisions in other aspects of your life. Start simple—take time to document money flow, educate yourself in the process, practice and repeat so later on, when bigger income and expenses come you know what and how to do it.

HAVE A BUDGET. This will help you to live within your means and will make you realize what things you can and cannot afford. By being aware of your budget you actually save money for the things that is most important to you.

ESTABLISH A GOOD CREDIT. Establish good credit is a good base for a good future. Experts say that getting a credit card with a credit limit that suits your means is the perfect start. "Don't delay and pay on time" because if you do, banks and creditors will start trusting your financial capabilities.

MAINTAIN AND SUSTAIN. Maintain and sustain a lifestyle that is suitable to the money that you earn. The words "live within your means" are powerful when there is no daddy or mommy to be there when you fall.

BE HAPPY ABOUT IT. Being independent should not be a burden. Embrace it! To put it in a different way, one can call it an adventure—exciting things to learn and experience. There is fear definitely but only fear of the unknown. You'll learn the ropes and realize it is possible and it can be done.

A good new year's resolution would be to regulate impulse buying or shopping as it will save you money in the long run.

Money saving rules applicable at any age

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The new year comes with new goals and aspirations and one of the popular new year resolutions is to save money. Most people want this, are good with this but many are also clueless. In many cases people do so well in the first two months of the year in keeping tabs with budgeting and saving money but depending on circumstances, somehow gets lost along the way.

Here are some straight forward money saving tips that can be your guide to maximize the income that goes in your pocket and making it work for you in the long run.

'The 50/20/30 Rule'

This rule basically makes you apportion your income after taxes into three divisions:

- 50 percent goes to your basic needs such as utilities; food or groceries; house, life, and health insurance; and car payment.
- 30 percent goes to "wants" or little luxuries in life such as shopping, dining out, extra-curricular activities, and travel.
- And finally, the remaining 20 percent goes to savings—no more or less.

The advantage of this rule is it makes you have that conscious effort to apportion your salary in three important aspects of your life. It allows you to meet your responsibilities with debts, still have the means to enjoy life and plan for the future.

'The 70 percent Rule'

This rule apportions 70 percent of your salary for anything that you spend on a monthly basis whether they are utilities, clothes, food, fun expenditures, hobbies etc. Twenty percent goes into savings and 10 percent goes to investments, retirement, health insurance.

The wisdom behind this rule is that it gives you room to budget wisely as expenses are al-

See MONEY on Page 16

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'Best money saving advise I got'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Financial management advice whether from family, friends, officemates, and neighbors can direct us to the kind of savings method that is applicable to our kind of job and lifestyle. We know that taking charge of your own money is quite intimidating and scary. Starting to walk in baby steps will get you a long way and if you play it smart it may eventually lead you to financial freedom.

The following are the best financial advise island and off-island residents got:

"The advice that I got was simple so it is easy to remember and apply. First, spend and live within your means, pay yourself first and this means set aside money for savings so you have a secure future and lastly, the remaining amount will be used to pay for expenses."

Jennifer Joan A.
Dandan

"The best advise I got on how to save my money is actually from Oprah Winfrey. She said in her show before that the best way to save was to segregate my money into three buckets. 1.) Living expenses 2. Emergency 3. Savings for long term. It should be equivalent to six months of your total living expenses. Savings is really for retirement so you can invest this. I actually have a bucket I call 'use wisely fund' for personal stuff—travel and big purchase items can be invested as well."

Katrina Adriano
As Matuis

"Create a workable budget because you need to know how much money you are spending and where you are spending it on. Do this by start fixing your monthly expenditures like electricity, groceries, clothes, gas etc. Once you build your budget, follow that budget. There will be times that the planned budget you set up is not working anymore then it is time for a budget tweak. I realize that it's definitely reasonable to revise your budget whenever there's a change in your life like a financial situation, marriage, new job, or having a baby. Just begin again and keep your financial goals on track."

Kiko Sakay
Papago

"Try to budget no more than a third of your income on housing expenses. In certain areas/ part of the world I know this isn't really doable but it's a good target. Personally, I try to make the rent /mortgage no more than 25 percent."

Leica Y.
Houston, Texas

"Ever since I started working and earning money, I have always applied the 40-60 percent method. Forty percent goes to my insurance and health plans, savings, travel, and recreation and 60 percent goes to living expenses such as bills, transportation, rental fees, and monthly amortization."

Mics Gumangan
Tanapag

"The best money saving advice I got was from attending the Millionaire's Mind Workshop. They said to use the '6 Jars of Money' method management. It means to literally have a jar for every set of expenses in your life. First jar has 55 percent of your income which is comprised of everyday expenses and bills. Second jar has 10 percent which is allotted for 'play' money or for things that I don't usually buy. Third jar has 10 percent which is my golden goose because the money here is something I could put into investments. Fourth jar has 10 percent which I call my education account. Even though I am already done with college, it's money allotted for further studies that I want to pursue. Fifth jar has 10 percent for bigger and nice-to-have purchases like travel etc. Sixth jar has 5 percent which is considered your give account jar. This is for the purpose of donating to charity etc."

Russ Farinas
Chalan Kanoa

The importance of a credit score

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A credit score is a numerical representation of the creditworthiness of a person or reflects your financial behavior. There is a saying that "if you don't take good care of your credit, then your credit won't take good care of you" and this pretty much sums up the importance of having a good credit score.

With the millions of people out there, banks and creditors doesn't have the time and means to get personal with all of us—to sit down with us to get to know us better, to determine what kind of life we live, what we do with our money, and how diligent we are with personal finances. Our credit score is how banks and creditors identifies and entrusts us with money that doesn't belong to us.

According to studies, a credit score ranges from 300 to 850 and an average American credit score is 670-680. If your score is in the 750s, you are in great shape so getting there and maintaining such score should be your focus and more like to treat it as your new normal because your credit score is going to be a part of your life whether you like it or not.

Since your credit score is a window of your financial movements, it is the mode which banks and creditors use to know if you are a financial risk. If your credit score is low, your risk is high and the interest rates when you apply for a loan will be higher. If your score is very good, your risk is low and you are given a lower interest rate.

It is not impossible to start to build and maintain a credit score.

Build you credit score by starting humble and small. Applying for a credit card with small balance is a good start, according to Dave Castaneda of Garapan.

"I started to build my credit score by getting a credit card three years ago. I did not have a big balance in that card which made me disciplined and just spending beyond my means."

"I paid my credit card bills on time which helped my credit score go up. It felt like the more I take good care of expenditures and payments, the more trusting the bank is of me because after a year, they increased my credit limit," he added.

Having a good credit score also makes you avoid huge amounts of front money, according to Maya Marasigan who lives in New York. "I came here and started from scratch. I had no credit score so my landlord then asked for front money in cash—two months advance rent in addition to my security deposit. When I applied for utilities and for a cellphone, they asked from me a huge deposits as well. All was too much for a newbie like me."

"I got a credit card and started my way up there. I always paid on time and spent on necessities only. I was conscious of not giving creditors a bad information about me. I thought I should trust the process because with patience, I know my credit score will build up," she added.

Maintaining a credit score is another thing. "With the many worries that I have, I didn't want consciously maintaining my credit score as an added worry. I have a credit card and I enrolled it in 'auto-pay' so no matter what, I pay on time and you build credit score that way," Luna Cabral of Garapan said.

"I also make sure that I use my card always within my means. This way, my bank knows that my account is active and other banks get this information too because without applying, I get other credit card application offers. But I just want to maintain one card as of now," she added.

MONEY

From Page 15

ways expected to grow and at the end of the day, you still have money left to save for the future.

In the event you spend less than 70 percent, better for you as you will have more money to save or invest. If you follow this rule, just keep in mind that 70 percent is your only spending threshold.

'The 30- Day Rule'

This rule especially helps the impulse buyers or shoppers. This curbs your hunger to get into impulse spending. This also helps you to only purchase the things that you need for everyday living and in the long run makes you save more money.

It works by negotiating with yourself really. Whenever you are in a shop or mall and you feel the urge to spend whether for new shoes, dress, or a toy, have the power to stop yourself and leave the store.

When you get home, write down the piece that you wanted to buy, where you found it, the price and the date. Post this in a place that is visible to you and think for 30 days if you really "need" this item.

If at the end of the month, if the need to buy that item is still there, buy it. But if the need to get it is no longer there—good. You saved yourself from a bad purchase and made your bank account retain a few dollars.

'Get Everybody Involved Rule'

When you are truly bent on managing your finances to save for the future, get everyone in your life involved—friends and family. They are good encouragers for you to stay on the right path, give you advice and guidance along the way. Battling with how you spend your own money is tough but with accountability from others, it helps you take charge of your finances and eventually your future.

Business

Dems uneasy about potential Schultz bid

SEATTLE (AP)—For a businessman who grew a small coffee roaster into an inescapable global chain, who ensured that even his part-time workers had benefits and who has given about $150,000 to Democratic campaigns, former Starbucks Chairman Howard Schultz is generating tepid—or even hostile—responses within the party as he weighs a presidential bid in 2020.

That's partly because—as Schultz told "60 Minutes" on Sunday—he's considering running as an independent, a prospect many worry could draw support from the eventual Democratic nominee and hand President Donald Trump another four years in office. Among those urging him not to run as an independent are David Axelrod, the former adviser to President Barack Obama, and Tina Podlodowski, the Democratic Party chairwoman in Washington state, where Schultz has lived for decades.

"For somebody who is professing to be a lifelong Democrat, I think to be running as in independent in this particular cycle is not a wise thing to do," Podlodowski said.

Julian Castro, the former secretary of Housing and Urban Development who announced a bid for the Democratic nomination this month, said Sunday on CNN he is concerned that if Schultz did run an independent campaign "it would provide Donald Trump with his best hope of getting re-elected."

The 65-year-old Seattle billionaire launches a tour Monday to promote his latest book, "From the Ground Up: A Journey to Reimagine the Promise of America." He has stops this week in New York; Tempe, Arizona; Seattle; and San Francisco—but no dates listed for the early voting states of Iowa or New Hampshire.

He's been mentioned as a potential candidate many times before, and he's done little to quell speculation about his presidential ambitions since saying when he retired from Starbucks last June that his future could include "public service."

His office did not respond to an email seeking comment about his intentions. If he were to enter the race he would be the most high-profile candidate without prior elected experience.

Falling down on the job? Seek feedback—and act on it

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.youroffice-coach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Although I work extremely hard, I get almost no appreciation. In fact, my entire team seems to resent my working style. My clients are not happy with me, and neither is my boss. The human resources manager has also mentioned that I have a problem.

This is the second time I've been in this situation, so I'm afraid I might be fired. I would like to talk to my boss about it, but I don't know how to initiate the conversation. How can I fix this?

A: If your colleagues, clients, boss and HR manager are all displeased with you, then you desperately need a career rescue strategy. Given that these problems have arisen before, the pattern is quite likely to repeat unless you make some major modifications.

The good news is that you have recognized the need to change, but the bad news is that you appear completely baffled about the cause of your difficulties. To begin defining the issue, request some feedback from your boss and HR manager.

For example: "I realize things aren't going well in my job, but I honestly don't know what I'm doing wrong. I would appreciate it if you could help me understand what I need to do differently. Can you describe two or three specific changes that I should make?"

Listen to their observations without arguing and then prepare a personal development plan, specifically describing the behaviors you intend to modify. After reviewing the plan with your boss, schedule regular meetings to assess your progress.

Changing your work style won't be easy, but if you are truly motivated, it can be done. And I guarantee that management will be impressed with your willingness to try.

Q: A woman in my office wears so much perfume that you can still smell it after she passes by. Unfortunately, her cubicle is next to mine, and the constant odor gives me a headache. When I mentioned this to her supervisor, he said no one else had complained. Now I'm debating whether to leave her an anonymous note or go to human resources. What do you think?

A: In my opinion, no one should ever wear perfume to work, because the smell can be extremely irritating to both coworkers and customers. Perfume wearers tend to be oblivious to this problem, however, because people are seldom aware of their own scent.

Anonymous notes are obnoxious, so someone needs to give your overly fragrant colleague some personal feedback. Since her boss won't cooperate, the remaining choices are you and the HR manager. If you are brave enough to tackle this talk yourself, make it a request, not a criticism.

For example: "Mary, I need to ask you a favor. Perfume gives me a really bad headache, even if the fragrance is pleasant. Since we sit so close to each other, would you mind not wearing it in the office?"

On the other hand, if your colleague is a touchy sort, it might be safer to have the HR manager deliver the message without mentioning your name.

Nation

End of shutdown still leaves contract workers hanging

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Federal employees are turning on office lights and computers and reopening national parks and museums for the first time in weeks, but others employed by government contractors face still more uncertainty over when they'll resume work or whether they'll ever be paid for time lost to the stalemate over President Donald Trump's border wall.

AP

Park ranger Rhonda Schier, left, welcomes Stanley Gross, 5, his sister Clara Gross, 1, mom Sherri Gross and dad Jared Gross to the Gateway Arch on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in St. Louis, Mo.

For the hundreds of thousands of people who work for private companies that support government, the future will be decided in part by how quickly federal agencies get running after the record 35-day shutdown, the fine print of contracts and the kindness of strangers.

Michelle Oler of St. Louis resorted to online fundraising to pay bills while sidelined from her contracting job processing rural development claims for the Agriculture Department, and she's still unsure when she'll resume work or receive money to compensate for missed paychecks.

"The estimate of what I've lost financially due to the shutdown is upwards of $3,500. The anxiety, sleeplessness and depression make it feel like much more," Oler said Sunday in an interview by email. Her GoFundMe page has brought in only $50 so far.

Kevin Doyle, a father of three, estimated he's out around $5,000 from his contracting job as an encryption specialist at Laughlin Air Force Base on the Texas-Mexico border. He said he didn't sleep and lost weight during the shutdown as both the stress and the bills piled up.

Doyle said he will return to work on Monday, but he starts a new job Friday with another company that he hopes will be more stable if talks fail over Trump's demand for money for a wall and another shutdown begins next month.

"We were scraping pennies and nickels together one day to get the baby a Happy Meal," said Doyle, 40. "It's just that bad."

The partial government shutdown ended when Trump backed off his demand that Congress commit $5.7 billion for a U.S.-Mexico border wall before federal agencies could resume work. All or parts of multiple federal agencies were affected, with some employees furloughed and others forced to work without pay.

The 800,000 federal workers who were affected will receive back pay, but contractors don't have the same guarantee.

Jack Lyons, who was furloughed from his contract job providing technical support at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in north Alabama, didn't miss a paycheck during the shutdown. "I was one of the lucky ones," he said.

But Lyons still wonders what will happen when he returns to work Monday in a building near towering stands built to test rockets at the NASA center.

"I'll walk in, wipe the dust off the desk and see how management decides to catch up on what we missed," he said Sunday. "Passwords expire and that sort of stuff, so it will just be a matter of making sure you can get in at first."

NASA told workers in a message on its website to be patient with laptops, desktop computers and smartphones that haven't been maintained or updated since last month when the shutdown began.

ACROSS THE NATION

Florida nabs 'America's Most Wanted' fugitive from Virginia

PALM COAST, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a Virginia fugitive who was featured on "America's Most Wanted" two decades ago was arrested after a three-hour standoff with deputies in Florida. Flagler County Sheriff's Office says 46-year-old Michael Eugene Moore has a fugitive warrant in Virginia. Moore was featured on the TV show, accused by authorities of stabbing his wife repeatedly and abducting their 5-year-old daughter in March of 1996. Weeks later, the girl was found in Miami and returned to her mother in Richmond, Virginia, after the child's photo appeared on the show. Moore remained fugitive. The sheriff's office says a license plate reader detected a stolen vehicle Saturday and deputies signaled the driver to stop in Palm Coast, south of Jacksonville. Authorities say Moore didn't want to get out, but surrendered after the sheriff called in a SWAT team.

Man arrested in Indianapolis bar shooting that wounded 5

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indianapolis police say they've arrested a man in connection with a bar shooting that wounded five people. Police announced Sunday that they arrested 38-year-old Dejuan Brown. He faces preliminary charges of two counts of aggravated battery and three counts of felony battery. Police say detectives learned that Brown was involved in a disturbance at the Brotherman Tavern and was removed by security but he returned around 2 a.m. Saturday and began firing, wounding three men and two women ranging in age from 35 to 57. Authorities say all of the victims are expected to survive and that two have been released from the hospital. It wasn't immediately clear if Brown has an attorney who might comment on his behalf.

Asia

Duterte to see site of fatal bombings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte and his top security officials planned on Monday to visit a Catholic cathedral in the southern Philippines where suspected Islamic militants set off bombs that killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 100.

The first blast sent people, some of them wounded, fleeing out the church's main door. Army troops and police were rushing inside when the second bomb exploded a minute later. The explosions scattered wooden pews inside the main hall, blasted out window glass panels and hurled human remains and debris across a town square fronting the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, witnesses said.

The attack occurred in the Sulu provincial capital on Jolo island, where Abu Sayyaf militants have carried out years of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings and have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group.

Duterte was to meet with some of the survivors and hold a security meeting with military and police officials on Monday. Police have put forces around the country on heightened alert to prevent similar attacks.

"We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime until every killer is brought to justice and put behind bars. The law will give them no mercy," the president's office said earlier.

AP

In this photo provided by WESMINCOM Armed Forces of the Philippines, a soldier views the site inside a Roman Catholic cathedral in Jolo, the capital of Sulu province in the southern Philippines after two bombs exploded Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

The bombings came nearly a week after minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation endorsed a new autonomous region in the southern Philippines in hopes of ending nearly five decades of a separatist rebellion that has left 150,000 people dead. Although most Muslim areas approved the autonomy deal, voters in Sulu province, where Jolo is located, rejected it. The province is home to a rival rebel faction that's opposed to the deal as well as smaller militant cells that are not part of any peace process.

A top Philippine government official told The Associated Press that an Abu Sayyaf commander, Hatib Sawadjaan, is one of the main suspects. At least four of Sawadjaan's men were filmed by security cameras near the bombed area, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.

Sawadjaan is based in the jungles of Patikul town, near Jolo, and has been blamed for kidnappings for ransom and beheadings of hostages, including two Canadian men, in recent years. Sawadjaan's faction has aired ransom-demanding videos that used Islamic State-styled black flags as backdrops.

Japan court upholds sterilization to register gender change

TOKYO (AP)—Human rights and LGBT activists on Friday denounced a ruling by Japan's Supreme Court upholding a law that effectively requires transgender people to be sterilized before they can have their gender changed on official documents.

The court said the law is constitutional because it was meant to reduce confusion in families and society. But it acknowledged that it restricts freedom and could become out of step with changing social values.

The 2004 law states that people wishing to register a gender change must have their original reproductive organs, including testes or ovaries, removed and have a body that "appears to have parts that resemble the genital organs" of the gender they want to register.

More than 7,800 Japanese have had their genders officially changed, according to Justice Ministry statistics cited by public broadcaster NHK.

The unanimous decision by a four-judge panel, published Thursday, rejected an appeal by Takakito Usui, a transgender man who said forced sterilization violates the right to self-determination and is unconstitutional.

Usui, 45, appealed to the top court after he unsuccessfully requested that lower courts grant him legal recognition as male without having his female reproductive glands surgically removed.

Despite the unanimous decision, presiding justice Mamoru Miura joined another justice in saying that while the law may not violate the constitution, "doubts are undeniably emerging," according to Usui's lawyer, Tomoyasu Oyama.

The two judges proposed regular reviews of the law and appropriate measures "from the viewpoint of respect for personality and individuality," according to Japanese media reports.

Japan is one of many countries with a sterilization requirement. In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights said 22 of the countries under its jurisdiction still required sterilization as part of a legal gender change, and it ordered them to end the practice.

Maria Sjodin, deputy executive director of OutRight Action International, which monitors LGBT rights issues worldwide, said she was unsure if all 22 of those countries have fully implemented the court's order. She noted that Sweden, which did away with the requirement in 2013, later became the first country to pay damages to anyone forced to undergo sterilization as a requirement for gender change.

The Japanese Supreme Court decision ends Usui's legal battle, but he and his lawyer said the opinions in the ruling left them with hope.

"I think the ruling could lead to a next step," Usui told a news conference.

Human Rights Watch said the Supreme Court ruling was "incompatible with international human rights standards, goes against the times and deviates far from best global practices." The New York-based group said the ruling tolerates grave human rights violations against transgender people.

The ruling was also criticized by Japan's LGBT community.

World

AS DEATH TOLL HITS 58

Search for Brazil dam survivors renews

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP)—Brazilian rescue crews returned to mud-covered flats Sunday to resume the search for hundreds of people missing in the wake of a dam collapse after the operation was suspended for several hours over fears that a second dam was at risk of breach.

The Civil Defense office in Minais Gerais state raised the confirmed death toll to 58, with up to 300 people still missing following the avalanche of iron ore waste from a mine Friday.

Earlier Sunday, authorities stopped the search and evacuated several neighborhoods in the southeastern city of Brumadinho that were within range of the second B6 dam owned by the Brazilian mining company Vale. An estimated 24,000 people were told to get to higher ground, but by the afternoon civil engineers said the second dam was no longer at risk.

"Get out searching!" a woman yelled at firefighters near a refugee set up in the center of Brumadinho. "They could be out there in the bush."

Areas of water-soaked mud appeared to be drying out, which could help firefighters get to areas previously unreachable. Late Sunday, more than 100 Israeli soldiers and other personnel arrived with plans to join rescue and recovery efforts Monday.

Even before the brief suspension of rescue efforts, hope that loved ones had survived a tsunami of iron ore mine waste from Friday's dam collapse was turning to anguish and anger over the increasing likelihood that many of the missing had died.

There was also mounting anger at Vale and questions about an apparent lack of an alarm system Friday.

Caroline Steifeld, who was evacuated, said she heard warning sirens Sunday, but no such alert on the day the dam collapsed.

The following message will be displayed to users with unsupported browsers: Your browser does not support the HTML tag. Try viewing this in a modern browser like Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Internet Explorer 9 or later.

Satellite imagery taken Saturday, January 26th of the collapsed dam just northeast of Brumadinho, Brazil. (AP Image/ Satellite image ©2019 DigitalGlobe, a Maxar company)

"I only heard shouting, people saying to get out. I had to run with my family to get to higher ground, but there was no siren," she said, adding that a cousin was still unaccounted for.

Several others made similar complaints when interviewed by The Associated Press. In an email, Vale told the AP that the area has eight sirens in the area, but "the speed in which the event happened made sounding an alarm impossible" in the dam that collapsed.

"I'm angry. There is no way I can stay calm," Sonia Fatima da Silva said as she tried to get information about her son, who had worked at Vale for 20 years. "My hope is that they be honest. I want news, even if it's bad."

Da Silva said she last spoke to her son before he went to work Friday, when around midday a dam holding back mine waste collapsed, sending waves of mud for kilometers (miles) and burying much in its path.

She was one of dozens of people in Brumadinho who desperately awaited word on their loved ones.

Romeu Zema, the governor of Minas Gerais state, said that by now most recovery efforts will entail pulling out bodies.

The flow of waste reached the nearby community of Vila Ferteco and an occupied Vale administrative office. It buried buildings to their rooftops and an extensive field of the mud cut off roads.

Rivals Maduro and Guaido vie for Venezuelan military backing

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The struggle for control of Venezuela turned to the military Sunday, with supporters of opposition leader Juan Guaido handing leaflets to soldiers detailing a proposed amnesty law that would protect them for helping overthrow President Nicolas Maduro.

At the same time, Maduro demonstrated his might, wearing tan fatigues at military exercises. Flanked by his top brass, Maduro watched heavy artillery fired into a hillside and boarded an amphibious tank.

Addressing soldiers in an appearance on state TV, Maduro asked whether they were plotting with the "imperialist" United States, which he accused of openly leading a coup against him.

"No, my commander-in-chief," they shouted in unison, and Maduro responded: "We're ready to defend our homeland—under any circumstance."

The dueling appeals from the two rivals again put the military center stage in the global debate over who holds a legitimate claim to power in the South American nation.

The standoff has plunged troubled Venezuela into a new chapter of political turmoil that has already left more than two dozen dead as thousands took to the streets demanding Maduro step down. Guaido is calling for two new mass mobilizations over the next week.

The tumult erupted when Guaido, the 35-year-old leader of Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress, declared before masses of supporters last week that he has temporarily assumed presidential powers, vowing to hold free elections and end Maduro's dictatorship.

President Donald Trump and several foreign leaders quickly recognized Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate leader, prompting Maduro to cut ties with the U.S. and order its diplomats from Caracas within 72 hours. The U.S. defied him, saying Maduro isn't the legitimate president, and Maduro relented, suspending the deadline for 30 days for the sake of opening a dialogue.

Venezuela's crisis came before the U.N. Security Council on Saturday, which took no formal action because of divisions among members. Russia and China back Maduro. But France and Britain joined Spain and Germany in turning up the pressure on Maduro, saying they would recognize Guaido as president unless Venezuela calls a new presidential election within eight days.

"Where do you get that you have the power to establish a deadline or an ultimatum to a sovereign people?" said Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza. "It's almost childlike."

Venezuela's armed forces remain the key to Maduro's hold on power, firing tear gas and bullets on protesters, killing more than two dozen since Wednesday.

Overdrive

2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER HYBRID REVIEW:
Is the Hybrid worth the extra money?

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Looking for the most fuel-efficient three-row crossover with all-wheel drive? Chances are you've zeroed in on the Toyota Highlander Hybrid. Not much has changed for the 2019 Highlander Hybrid except the market. Automakers are rolling out more fuel-efficient crossovers by the day, it seems, with plug-in hybrids and full battery-electric vehicles planned for the immediate future.

As one of only a few hybrid three-row crossovers, the 2019 Toyota Highlander Hybrid is worth revisiting since our last write-up for model year 2015. Is it worth the upcharge, and how does this aging model stand up to the new competition? And, does it pay to be patient until the redesigned 2020 model drops this year?

The 306-horsepower V-6 with an electric continuously variable transmission comes standard in four trims. We tested the Limited, second only to Limited Platinum ($3,520 more). Motors on the front and rear axle provide AWD capability.

Toyota Safety Sense, the suite of advanced driver assistance systems including adaptive cruise, automatic high beams, lane departure alert and more are standard on all Toyota models. Other than that, the technology in the second-generation Highlander Hybrid feels old. But old can also feel familiar. There are no great surprises or steep learning curves, the infotainment system is functional, the control layout sensible enough. It has a smooth and quiet power delivery and offers plenty of room for a family of six. The lack of power folding seats or automatically collapsible headrests at this price point seemed cheap.

It is $1,620 more expensive than the gas-only Highlander in Limited trim. It gets 28 mpg combined versus the 22 mpg combined in the gas-only version.

Based on EPA estimates of 15,000 miles driven annually at current gas prices, the annual fuel cost is $1,250 for the Hybrid and $1,600 for the gas model. Hybrid owners will recoup their extra costs within five years of ownership. But that is based on 55 percent of city driving. The Hybrid is at its most efficient in around-town driving, getting 9 miles to the gallon more than the gas version. With city-only driving, the upcharge is recouped in three years of gas savings at $550/year (annual fuel cost increases to $1,800 in the gas version). But are you really driving 15,000 miles around town? For some parents, it sure feels like it.

By year four of ownership, the Hybrid owner is winning. Then there's the added bonus of having a cleaner, greener conscious and showing the drivers of tomorrow that you give a leaf. Let the economists put a cost on that. Seriously, though.

Yet we averaged a meager 24 mpg at 33 mph in the deepest depths of winter.

So, yes, in most cases, the Hybrid is worth the upcharge over the gas version of the Highlander and other fuel-efficient three-rows such as the Mazda CX-9 and Kia Sorento. Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV doesn't come with a third row, so that raises the question everyone is asking, from regulators to automakers: How much green do you want to spend on being green?

The lovely Volvo XC90 plug-in hybrid starts at $67,000, nearly 50 percent more than the Highlander Hybrid. All the luxury makes are launching plug-in or full battery electric crossovers in the next year or two, so maybe they think we have money to … compost.

What about the excellent Chrysler Pacifica plug-in Hybrid? I can hear the eye rolls from here. You hate the styling, I get it, but sliding doors and wide spaces make the minivan the most practical family car around. Pacifica gets 29 mpg combined, too, without factoring the 32-mile electric range. That would suffice the vast majority of family errands, we expect, so there would be no gas charge annually except for the road trip fueled by all the money you saved on gas!

But it's not a crossover. Now I'm the one rolling my eyes.

At $52,800 and 26 mpg combined, the excellent Acura MDX Sport Hybrid is the nearest competitor. It's fresher, more refined and more powerful, but it's also more expensive and less efficient.

More mainstream automakers are rolling out three-row hybrid crossovers. The 2020 Ford Explorer will come as a hybrid, though fuel economy numbers won't be released until closer to the spring release date. The police version of the new 2020 Explorer Hybrid gets 24 mpg combined.

Even if the Explorer Hybrid is in the range of 24 to 26 mpg, the Highlander Hybrid is better. In this sense, the Highlander Hybrid is ahead of the game. It might be the only sense in which this is true, but for the fuel-conscious, family-hauling, minivan-hating car shopper, it is the sense that is most important.

NUTS & BOLTS

- 2019 Toyota Highlander Hybrid in Limited trim at a glance
- Vehicle type: 3-row hybrid crossover
- Base price: $45,510
- As tested: $46,169
- Mpg: 29 city, 27 highway, 28 combined
- Powertrain: 3.5-liter V-6 engine with ECVT in AWD
- Competitive rank: Chrysler Pacifica PHEV, Acura MDX Sport Hybrd, Toyota Highlander Hybrid, Volvo XC90 T8.

AP

2019 Toyota Highlander Hybrid Limited in AWD is expected to get a redesign for 2020 amid more efficient powertrain offerings from competitors' three-row crossovers. For now, it's still the most affordable fuel-efficient three-row crossver in AWD. Pictured in Arlington Heights, Ill., on Jan. 15, 2019.

Under the Hood: Driver unsettled by unexplained breaking

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Q: I have a 2004 Toyota Sienna. It feels like it will put on the brakes when I least expect it. It is just for a second or two, but what a wake-up! I took it to the dealer, and they said no codes found. So online we go to find out, after hours of searching, that it might be the VSC or that it is most likely steering rack bushings, but I have done the entire brake system to find this out. Ouch on me! Why hasn't Toyota recalled the model for such a life threat as this is? Any advice?

— Lorie H.

A: Wow! Let's see if we can sort some of this out.

Toyota issued a Technical Service Bulletin (#BR008-04) in late 2004 indicating an intermittent VSC (Vehicle Stability Control) activation may occur on early production Sienna and Highlander vehicles due to a faulty steering angle sensor. Such a fault should include an illuminated VSC light and audible warning buzzer turning on at the same time. A VSC activation may involve power reduction, braking and yaw (turning) corrections.

Folks complaining about this intermittent event on 2004 Siennas say it can be quite unsettling.

If your vehicle identification number precedes 5 T D Z A 2 C # 4 S 1 9 4 3 1 2 (check the final six digits) or 5TDBA2C#4S025440 (final six digits) this is definitely something to look into. The bulletin indicates a DTC (diagnostic trouble code) may or may not be present, and sensor replacement with a revised version is advised.

If your Sienna is a candidate for the revised sensor, I'd push hard for this being performed out-of-warranty due to the obvious safety concern and DTC being published (contact Toyota directly).The sensor is pricey (about $400 to $500) plus installation and zero-point calibration (2 or more hours of labor).

If you haven't noted the VSC light and tone, and there's no DTC, it still might be a good idea to have both the steering angle and yaw sensors scrutinized for brief glitches by a sharp tech using the graphing mode of a scan tool or lab scope. If they show clean, this should put any VSC concerns to rest. Your comment regarding the steering rack bushings puzzles me, as worn-out rubber bushings would result in steering looseness, wandering and possible instability rather than being involved in an unexpected braking event.

As with any intermittent situation, documenting the specific driving conditions, possible illuminated warning indicators, road surface, temperature and other factors will help a service technician to best duplicate your concerns and be able to apply the best diagnostic methods to narrow down the cause.

Q: My lube shop is bugging me to do oil changes every 3,000 miles. Hasn't this been busted as unnecessary? My oil minder usually tells me it's time in about 6,000 to 8,000 miles.

— Conrad

A: Yikes! The only circumstance where this may be needed is when a vehicle is operated in extreme conditions, such as excessive dust, extreme cold, prolonged idling, demanding workload or (more likely) if run times don't heat up the engine enough to burn off contaminates from the oil. If milky deposits are seen at the bottom of the 710 cap (oil upside down), full warm-ups aren't regularly occurring. I'd go with the oil minder recommendation, as most are derived by how the vehicle is actually being driven.

Life & Style

'Black Panther' wins top honor at SAG Awards, 'Maisel' soars

NEW YORK (AP)—"Black Panther" took the top award at Sunday's 25th Screen Actors Guild Awards, giving Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation its most significant awards-season honor yet and potentially setting up Wakanda for a major role at next month's Academy Awards.

The two leading Oscar nominees—"Roma" and "The Favourite"—were bypassed by the actors guild for a best ensemble field that also included "BlacKkKlansman," "Crazy Rich Asians," "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "A Star Is Born." Although "Black Panther" wasn't nominated for any individual SAG Awards, it took home the final award at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Before a stage full of actors, Chadwick Boseman tried to put into context the moment for the trailblazing "Black Panther," which also won for its stunt performer ensemble. "To be young, gifted and black," he said, quoting the Nina Simone song.

"We know what it's like to be told there isn't a screen for you to be featured on, a stage for you to be featured on. ... We know what's like to be beneath and not above. And that is what we went to work with every day," said Boseman. "We knew that we could create a world that exemplified a world we wanted to see. We knew that we had something to give."

The win puts "Black Panther" squarely in contention for best picture at the Academy Awards where it's nominated for seven honors including best picture. Actors make up the largest percentage of the academy, so their preferences can have an especially large impact on the Oscar race. In the last decade the SAG ensemble winner has gone on to win best picture at the Academy Awards half of the time.

In the lead acting categories, Glenn Close and Rami Malek solidified themselves as front-runners with wins that followed their triumphs at the Golden Globes. The 71-year-old Close, a seven-time nominee but never an Oscar winner, won best actress for her performance in "The Wife." In her speech, she spoke about the power of film in a multi-screen world.

"One of the most powerful things we have as human beings are two eyes looking into two eyes," said Close. "Film is the only art form that allows us the close-up."

AP

Sterling K. Brown, from left, Angela Bassett, Lupita Nyong'o, Chadwick Boseman, Danai Gurira, Michael B. Jordan, and Andy Serkis pose with the award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture for "Black Panther" in the press room at the 25th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Malek, wining best actor over Christian Bale ("Vice") and Bradley Cooper ("A Star Is Born") for his performance in "Bohemian Rhapsody," seemingly sealed the Oscar many are predicting for him. Malek's awards are mounting even as the director of "Bohemian Rhapsody," Bryan Singer, is facing multiple accusations of sexual assault with minors. Singer has denied the claims.

As he did at the Globes, Malek dedicated his award to Mercury.

"I get some power from him that's about stepping up and living your best life, being exactly who you want to be and accomplishing everything you so desire," said Malek.

More surprising was Emily Blunt's best supporting actress win for her performance in the horror thriller "A Quiet Place." Blunt, also nominated by the guild for her lead performance in "Mary Poppins Returns," was visibly shocked. She wasn't among Tuesday's Oscar nominees for either film.

"Guys. That truly has blown my slicked hair back," said Blunt, who praised her husband and "A Quiet Place" director John Krasinski as a "stunning filmmaker." "Thank you for giving me the part. You would have been in major trouble if you hadn't."

Best supporting actor in a film went more as expected. Mahershala Ali, who won two years ago for "Moonlight," won for his performance in Peter Farrelly's interracial road trip "Green Book."

The Amazon series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" won the first three awards handed out Sunday, sweeping the comedy series awards. It won best ensemble in a comedy series, as well as individual honors for Rachel Brosnahan and Tony Shalhoub, whose win was a surprise in a category that included Bill Hader ("Barry") and Michael Douglas ("The Kominsky Method").

"We cannot thank you enough," said Shalhoub, speaking for the cast. "Stay with us."

Tom Hanks presented the lifetime achievement award to Alan Alda , who in July revealed that he had been living with Parkinson's disease for more than three years. The 83-year-old actor took the stage to a standing ovation while the theme to "M.A.S.H" played. He said the award came at a reflective moment for him.

"I see more than ever now how proud I am to be a part of our brotherhood and sisterhood of actors," said Alda. "It may never have been more urgent to see the world through another person's eyes. When a culture is divided so sharply, actors can help—a least a little—just by doing what we do. And the nice part is it's fun to do it. So my wish for all of us is: Let's stay playful."

For the second time, the cast of "This Is Us" won best ensemble in a drama series. Other TV winners included Sandra Oh ("Killing Eve"), Darren Criss for "Assassination of Gianni Versace", Jason Bateman ("Ozark") and Patricia Arquette ("Escape at Dannemora"). Arquette thanked Special Counsel investigator Robert Mueller "and everyone working to make sure we have sovereignty for the United States of America."

'Glass' is No. 1 again, McConaughey's 'Serenity' flops

NEW YORK (AP)—Matthew McConaughey notched one of the worst debuts of his career, Oscar nominees saw only modest bumps and M. Night Shyamalan's "Glass" easily remained No. 1 on a quiet weekend in movie theaters.

The weekend's two new wide releases—McConaughey's tropic noir "Serenity" and the updated King Arthur tale "The Kid Who Would Be King"—both flopped with moviegoers who instead continued to flock to "Glass" and Kevin Hart's "The Upside."

Shyamalan's sequel to "Unbreakable" and "Split" sold $19 million in tickets according to estimates Sunday, a decent 53 percent drop from its opening weekend. In 10 days of release, Shyamalan's self-financed thriller has made $73.6 million domestically and $162.7 million globally.

"The Upside," starring Hart and Bryan Cranston, also stayed lodged in second place with $12.2 million in its third weekend.

The weekend's biggest budget new entry, "The Kid Who Would Be King," opened poorly with $7.3 million against a $59 million budget. The 20th Century Fox release, produced by Working Title, was written and directed by "Attack the Block" filmmaker Joe Cornish. In his modern-day London version of the legend, a working-class boy pulls Excalibur from a stone.

Though "The Kid Who Would Be King" drew good reviews (86 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and was largely pleasing to audiences (who gave it a B-plus CinemaScore), Cornish's film came in on the low side of already undersized expectations.

Smaller still was "Serenity," from the recently launched distributor Aviron Pictures. Though boasting a respected writer-director (Steven Knight, the creator of "Peaky Blinders" and maker of 2013's "Locke") and a starry cast including Anne Hathaway and Jason Clarke, "Serenity" made only a minor disturbance at the box office with $4.8 million in ticket sales.

The film, about a fishing boat captain on a mysterious island, was lambasted by critics (21 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and audiences agreed, giving it a D-plus CinemaScore. The film, made for about $25 million, is among McConaughey's weakest performing wide-release debuts, behind only 2017's "Gold" and 1996's "Larger Than Life." For Hathaway, it's a new low.

Several Oscar contenders added theaters over the weekend to capitalize on Tuesday's nominations. Peter Farrelly's "Green Book," nominated for five awards including best picture, received the biggest bump, taking in $5.4 million in its widest releases yet (2,430 theaters in its 11th week of release), along with $5.7 million overseas.

"Green Book" was the only Oscar film to crack the top 10. "Bohemian Rhapsody," which has already surpassed $600 million internationally, added another $8.7 million overseas. It also took in $2.5 million domestically.

1. **"Glass,"** *$19 million* ($23 million international).
2. **"The Upside,"** *$12.2 million* ($1.1 million international).
3. **"Aquaman,"** *$7.4 million* ($7.8 million international).
4. **"The Kid Who Would Be King,"** *$7.3 million* ($1.9 million international)
5. **"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,"** *$6.2 million* ($2.8 million international).
6. **"Green Book,"** *$5.4 million* ($5.7 million international).
7. **"A Dog's Way Home,"** *$5.2 million* ($4.5 million international).
8. **"Serenity,"** *$4.8 million* ($1 million international).
9. **"Escape Room,"** *$4.3 million* ($7.4 million international).
10. **"Mary Poppins Returns,"** *$3.1 million* ($3.9 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Comscore.

1. **"Glass,"** *$23.6 million.*
2. **"Once Upon a Deadpool,"** *$21.4 million.*
3. **"Extreme Job,"** *$20.5 million.*
4. **"Creed II,"** *$13.8 million.*
5. **"White Snake,"** *$9.9 million.*
6. **"Ralph Breaks the Internet,"** *$9.5 million.*
7. **"White Snake,"** *$9.5 million.*
8. **"Bohemian Rhapsody,"** *$8.8 million.*
9. **"Aquaman,"** *$7.8 million.*
10. **"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,"** *$7.7 million.*

Wayne Newton celebrates 60 years in Las Vegas with new show

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Wayne Newton dropped out of high school his junior year to perform with his brother at a Las Vegas hotel. It was 1959, and he was too young to spend his breaks at the casino and too broke to eat dinner there.

Six decades later—with more than 30,000 live shows on the world-famous Las Vegas Strip alone—Newton is kicking off a new series of shows in the gambling mecca.

"Mr. Las Vegas" will mark his 60th anniversary with a return to Caesars Palace casino-resort. His show starts Monday with dates scheduled through May.

"It's hard for me to articulate, much less think about it," Newton told The Associated Press, referring to the anniversary. "I was here when Caesars (Palace) was built. This hotel for me has always represented the flagship of the Strip."

The "Danke Schoen" crooner will be backed by a live band during his "Wayne Newton: Up Close and Personal" shows. He will perform some of his favorite tunes and share personal career highlights through songs, film clips, anecdotes and questions from the audience.

Newton's show was previously at a showroom at Bally's casino-resort, but it ended in December as the venue shifted toward magic acts. The planned shows at Caesars will be at a showroom for 165 people, providing a more intimate setting.

Newton, 76, asked the casino operator to lift the venue's age restriction to allow young people to attend.

"I promised myself when I left the lounges that I would never be in a room again that had those kinds of restrictions. There's nothing in our show that would offend anyone, even the youngsters," Newton said. "That doesn't mean that the show is geared to particularly that group, but it is geared not to exclude that group demographically."

AP

In this Jan. 18, 2019, photo, Wayne Newton speaks with the Associated Press at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Newton is marking his 60th anniversary of performing in Las Vegas in 2019 with a return to Caesars Palace casino-resort.

Newton's success in Las Vegas began when a two-week tryout at the Fremont Hotel and Casino turned into lounge act of six shows per night, six nights a week for nearly a year. Newton earned national fame after a 1962 television appearance on "The Jackie Gleason Show."

He split with his brother, Jerry, in 1972 and continued to perform on his own. He soon became known as Las Vegas' hottest entertainer, signing a contract to work 36 weeks a year for Howard Hughes' Summa hotels and often working more than 40 weeks a year in the city, where he built a ranch home and raised prize Arabian horses.

Caesars Entertainment estimates Newton has performed for more than 40 million fans over the past six decades. Along the way, he saw Las Vegas' transformation from a gambling oasis to a glitzy destination with corporate-owned mega casino-resorts that have world-class dining, shopping areas and entertainment venues that sign superstars for extended engagements known as residencies.

Newton's multimillion-dollar agreement with the since-imploded Stardust casino-hotel in 1999 is considered among the first headliner residencies.

XXXTentacion's son born 7 months after rapper's death

NEW YORK (AP)—Seven months after XXXTentacion (ex-ex-ex-ten-TAH'-see-YOHN') was killed, the rapper's son has been born.

Jenesis Sanchez, XXXTentacion's girlfriend, gave birth Saturday to baby boy Gekyume Onfroy. The birth was announced Saturday evening by XXXTentacion's mother Cleopatra Bernard.

Gekyume's name is derived from a word the rapper created prior to his passing. His family defined it as meaning "a different state" or "next universe of thought."

The 20-year-old rising star, whose real name is Jahseh Dwayne Onfroy, was fatally shot in June in Florida in what authorities called a robbery attempt. XXXTentacion's sophomore album debuted No. 1 on the Billboard charts last March. In December, a posthumous album also reached No. 1.

Four men have been indicted by a grand jury on suspicion of first-degree murder and armed robbery in the death of XXXTentacion.

Brokaw says he feels terrible commentary offended Hispanics

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's Tom Brokaw says he feels terrible that his comments on "Meet the Press" Sunday that Hispanics should work harder at assimilation "offended some members of that proud culture."

The former "NBC Nightly News" anchor tweeted in response to a social media backlash to what he had said earlier in the day during a discussion of the proposed border wall.

On the show, Brokaw said that many Republicans fear the rise of a new constituency in American politics "who will come here and all be Democrats.

"Also, I hear, when I push people a little harder, (people who say) 'well, I don't know whether I want brown grandbabies,'" he said. "I mean, that's also a part of it. It's the intermarriage that is going on and the cultures that are conflicting with each other."

The 78-year-old journalist said he's been saying for a long time that Hispanics need to work harder at assimilation.

"They ought not to be just codified in their communities but make sure that all their kids are learning to speak English, and that they feel comfortable in the communities," he said. "And that's going to take outreach on both sides, frankly."

Brokaw received some immediate pushback from another panelist on the political talk show, Yamiche Alcindor of PBS. "I grew up in Miami, where people speak Spanish, but their kids speak English," she said. "And the idea that we think Americans can only speak English, as if Spanish and other languages wasn't always a part of America, is, in some ways, troubling."

The web site Latino Rebels and its founder, Julio Ricardo Varela, pointed out online that a 2015 Pew Research Center survey found that nearly two-thirds of Latinos in the United States were born in the U.S. Hispanics make up 18 percent of the nation's population.

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists also tweeted that it voiced its concerns about Brokaw's "inaccurate commentary" to NBC.

Pew also found, in a 2016 survey of young Latino adults, that 41 percent say that English is their dominant language, 40 percent say they are bilingual and 19 percent speak Spanish primarily.

Brokaw's comments are both xenophobic and factually incorrect, Varela said.

"We as a community are creating the new America right before your very eyes, Mr. Brokaw," the Latino Rebels web site said. "Sorry if it doesn't fit your perceptions of what America should be like. That future is bilingual, bicultural, at times in English, other times in Spanish. Our community is defining this future. Not you."

Overserved party guest hides mishap on sofa under pillows

DEAR ABBY: We need some advice. Recently we hosted our annual holiday party and invited all of our neighbors and friends. Our invitation stated that the party would run between 5 and 11:30 so our guests could also attend other parties that might be going on at the same time.

As our party was winding down, it was noticed that one of our guests -- who had been at a previous party -- had wet themselves on our sofa and covered the spot up with throw pillows. We served wine, punch, etc. at our party, but this couple arrived pretty tipsy already. In the future, should we just not invite these neighbors? We are very distressed about this. What do you suggest?

OOPS! IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR OOPS!: The guilty party should have owned up to what happened and offered to pay for having your couch professionally cleaned rather than try to cover it up. If you are 100 percent sure it was one particular couple, not inviting them to more gatherings would absolutely guarantee that it won't happen again.

P.S. Covering your furniture in waterproof slipcovers when you entertain a crowd may be something you might want to consider in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I am a boarding school student, and I absolutely hate it here! I worked hard to get in, and I realize how lucky I am to have been accepted, but I just want to go home and go to school at my public high school with all of my friends and my brother. My friends understand, but my parents think I'm over-exaggerating. I am sad all the time, and I cry at least once a day. How do I approach this to help my parents understand?

AWAY FROM EVERYTHING

DEAR AWAY: You stated that you worked hard to get into this school, but you miss being with your friends back home. The quality of education you are now receiving will prove very important when you are getting ready for college. It's possible that with some help you can make new friends at this school. Stop crying alone and talk about your feelings with a trusted teacher or administrator. I'm sure it won't be the first time the person has heard something like this, and the input you receive could prove helpful.

DEAR ABBY: I work at a job that requires I call several businesspeople each day. Often I need to leave a voicemail message. It has become more and more common for voicemail greetings to say, "I will call you back at my earliest convenience." I find this very off-putting and rude, as if my call is an intrusion and they will call back "whenever." I think the word "convenience" is best used when offering it to someone else, as in, "Call me at your earliest convenience." I always try to return phone calls promptly, whether it's convenient or not. Am I just old-fashioned or what?

NOT SO CONVENIENT IN SACRAMENTO

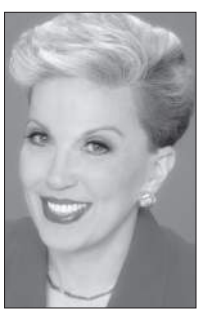
DEAR NOT SO: The individuals you are calling have the right to put any message they wish on their voicemail greeting. He or she may be on another business call or away from the office. The voicemail message is not being addressed to you personally.

You ARE old-fashioned. You also appear to be overly sensitive, and I think, for your own sake, you should get over it.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

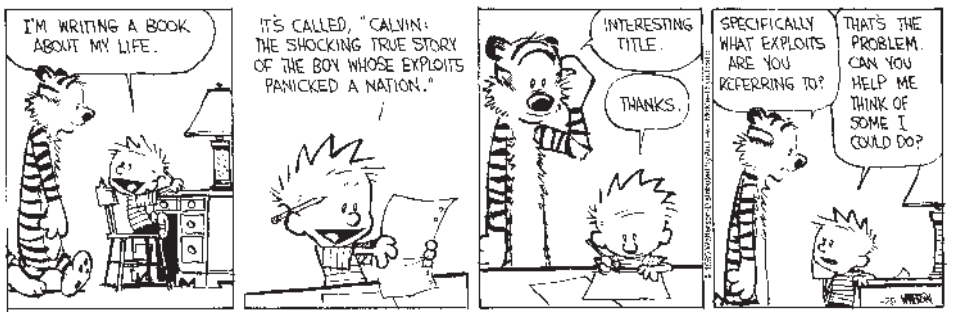


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

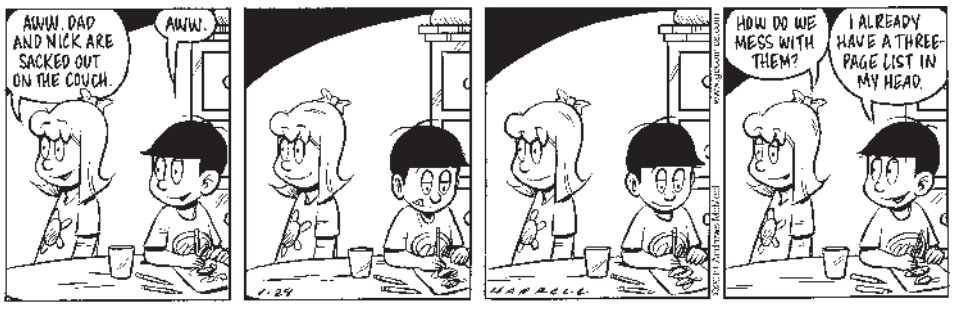

I'M WRITING A BOOK ABOUT MY LIFE.
IT'S CALLED, "CALVIN: THE SHOCKING TRUE STORY OF THE BOY WHOSE EXPLOITS PANICKED A NATION."
INTERESTING TITLE.
THANKS.
SPECIFICALLY WHAT EXPLOITS ARE YOU REFERRING TO?
THAT'S THE PROBLEM. CAN YOU HELP ME THINK OF SOME I COULD DO?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SHAMPOO GUARANTEES TO MAKE YOUR DANDRUFF VIRTUALLY VANISH.
WOW. ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS?
NOPE. IT JUST SAYS "LATHER, RINSE, THEN PUT ON ALL-WHITE CLOTHING."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Sad to say ..."
5 Armed conflict
8 Folk-singer Joan
12 Jet speed measure
13 Greek mountain
14 Big name in scat
15 Docking site
16 Leftovers carrier
18 Screen-writer's creations
20 Reddish horses
21 "I'm not impressed"
22 Martini liquor
23 Skilled
26 Flood protection
30 Gun the engine
31 Witty one
32 "As I see it," to a texter
33 Sleazy hotel
36 Be nosy
38 Train lines (Abbr.)
39 Aunt, in Acapulco
40 Part of Hispaniola
43 Iced desserts
47 Cinched
49 October birthstone
50 Words to a backstabber
51 In the style of
52 Alpha follower
53 Couturier Christian
54 "Of course"
55 Appear

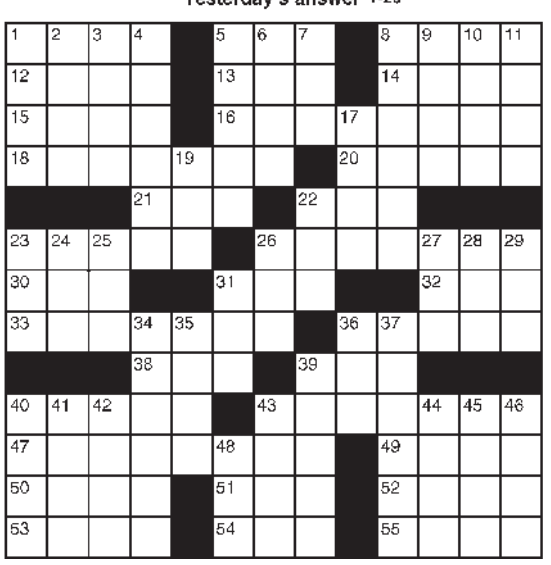
DOWN

1 Band boosters
2 Secular
3 Computer brand
4 Tempura choice
5 Shoebox datum
6 Big fusses
7 Cleaning cloth
8 Past
9 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
10 Flair
11 Turns sharply
17 Beam
19 Favorite
22 Joke
23 Canine cry
24 N.J. neighbor
25 First lady?
26 Droop
27 Life story
28 I love (Lat.)
29 Republicans
31 Existed
34 Camelot king
35 French cheese
36 — Lancelot
37 Bigwigs
39 Roman robes
40 Wasted no time
41 Con
42 "Suffice — say ..."
43 Shopper's delight
44 Fencing sword
45 London gallery
46 Bridge coup
48 Inlet

Solution time: 22 mins.

	S		S		A	W	L		C	D	D	S
M	O	S	I		S	P	A		H	E	E	K
A	P	E	H		I	A	M	P	A	B	A	Y
C	H	E	E	S	E		B	O	T	T	L	E
			E	C	R	J		D	E	F		
L	A	M	P	C	O	N	S		D	R	U	G
	R	A		T	I	B	I	A		F	S	P
D	A	M	N		D	A	M	P	N	F	S	S
		M	A	R		R	O	S	E			
S	H	A	P	E	S		L	E	A	V	E	S
C	A	M	P		I	R	E		R	I	D	E
A	L		E		D	J	O		L	S	A	T
R	O	A	D		E	E	N		Y	A	M	S

Yesterday's answer 1-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Gilbert, 44; Heather Graham, 49; Oprah Winfrey, 65; Tom Selleck, 74.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative to make a difference. Stand up for those who are challenged to gain strong support. Don't give in to unjust behavior or those who lack integrity. Speak openly about what's right and what isn't. Step into a leadership position and show everyone how strong and courageous you can be when faced with injustice. Your numbers are 8, 14, 19, 24, 31, 33, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look for new ways to advance. Gather information, attend an event that offers insight into something that interests you, or make a move to a location that has better opportunities. Reconnecting with someone from your past will have its benefits. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep moving. If there is something you don't know, ask an expert to eliminate the possibility of making a mistake. Look at the cost involved before you proceed. A change needs to be planned properly if you want to be successful. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Your intelligence and charm will encourage popularity as well as progress, so don't feel you have to exaggerate to win favors or convince others. It's honesty in the end that will help you get what you want. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* A problem will surface if you or someone you are dealing with isn't forthright about what's possible. It's better to promise less and end up giving more than the other way around if you want to maintain your reputation. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Mix business with pleasure and you'll meet interesting and helpful individuals who will enrich your ideas and what you are trying to achieve. A partnership looks good, but don't rely on a handshake. Get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Problems at home are best left alone for the time being. Focus on getting ahead and using your skills and knowledge to help you develop connections that are crucial to raising your standard of living, offering you options that are currently unavailable. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Participate in events that will bring you in contact with like-minded people. A partnership will help open doors to a brighter future. Learn all you can and offer what you know, and a change will take place that will improve your life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will try to outsmart you in order to take advantage of you. Keep your feelings and plans to yourself, and work alone in order to accomplish the most. Develop your creative skills. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Diligence will pay off. Consider what needs to be done, and put your energy into accomplishing your goal. Personal improvements and physical activities will bring about positive change. Romance will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't feel you have to do something because someone else does. Use your common sense to decipher how best to handle someone showing signs of inconsistency. It takes strength to say no to someone you care about. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take on anyone who opposes you. Your honesty and integrity will help you win in the end. Don't lose sight of your goals, and don't give up or give in until you reach your destination. Progress and rewards are within reach. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make thought-out decisions. Don't let anyone persuade you to take on the impossible. Learn from experience, and offer only what's feasible. Work alone and keep your personal opinions and information to yourself. Moderation is in your best interest. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are goal-oriented, playful and innovative. You are dynamic and persuasive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	9	3		2		8	
5				4				3
			8					9
9						7		2
	3			5			1	
7		6						8
4					7			
3				1				5
	2		5		8	9	7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	8	1	9	7	6	5	2	3
6	7	2	5	3	1	4	8	9
9	5	3	4	8	2	6	7	1
2	3	8	1	6	4	7	9	5
5	6	7	3	2	9	1	4	8
1	4	9	8	5	7	3	6	2
8	1	4	7	9	3	2	5	6
7	2	5	6	1	8	9	3	4
3	9	6	2	4	5	8	1	7

Difficulty Level ★ 1/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOXES OF ALL SIZES Solution: 10 letters

K	H	T	O	O	B	L	A	C	K	C	L	A	S	P
S	C	H	C	T	A	P	S	I	D	L	O	C	K	D
H	T	E	J	B	O	I	G	N	I	P	P	I	H	S
A	A	E	H	A	R	O	U	P	E	K	A	C	I	Q
K	C	Z	E	C	C	O	L	M	E	S	C	A	N	U
E	N	E	A	S	R	Ⓚ	W	S	T	T	K	R	G	A
N	S	E	V	O	Ⓛ	G	S	N	H	O	A	R	E	R
O	M	U	Y	Ⓤ	N	T	E	C	L	R	G	Y	D	E
T	A	Q	Ⓑ	I	N	M	N	A	A	A	E	I	P	T
R	L	S	D	E	U	U	Z	O	T	G	N	G	O	R
A	L	L	T	R	L	Z	S	T	E	E	L	L	W	I
C	O	N	T	A	I	N	E	R	M	L	L	A	E	N
F	O	S	R	P	D	I	S	P	L	A	Y	S	R	K
C	N	G	P	O	S	T	A	L	B	V	S	S	E	E
I	E	L	B	A	S	U	E	R	P	O	R	D	D	T

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Romalina Maratita, Petitioner, vs. Robinson Welly, Respondent,
FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0438
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 1283 Rota, MP 96951 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

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/s/
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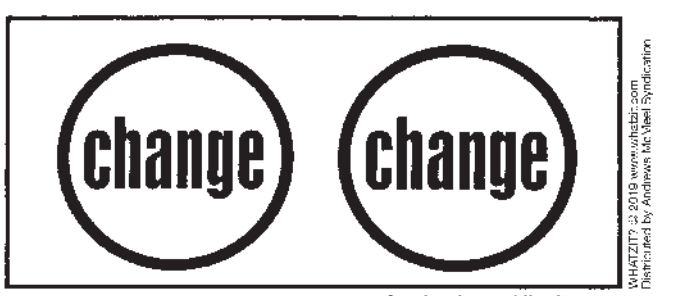

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Djokovic crushes Nadal for record 7th title

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a backhand return to Spain's Rafael Nadal during the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic was so good, so relentless, so flawless, that Rafael Nadal never stood a chance.

Djokovic reduced one of the greats of the game to merely another outclassed opponent—just a guy, really—and one so out of sorts that Nadal even whiffed on one of his famous forehands entirely.

In a breathtakingly mistake-free performance that yielded a remarkably lopsided result, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic overwhelmed Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday night to win a record seventh Australian Open championship and a third consecutive Grand Slam title, raising his count to 15 overall.

"Under the circumstances," Djokovic said, "it was truly a perfect match."

No one who saw it would disagree.

Djokovic's coach, Marian Vajda, said: "I would describe it as dominance."

Nadal's take? "An amazing level of tennis."

"Unbelievable," said Nadal's coach, Carlos Moya. "Novak probably could have won, no matter who the opponent was."

That Djokovic would produce 34 winners and only nine unforced errors was impressive enough. That it came against Nadal—who is ranked No. 2, owns 17 major trophies himself and hadn't dropped a set in the tournament—was hard to comprehend.

Djokovic left Nadal smirking or gritting his teeth or punching his racket strings, unable to compete at all.

Here's how Nadal explained it: To have a chance when Djokovic plays that well, something extra is required. Given that he's coming off a series of injuries, given that he hadn't played since the U.S. Open last September, Nadal couldn't raise his game.

Then again, Nadal conceded, "When the player did almost everything better than you, you can't complain much."

So Djokovic added to previous triumphs in Melbourne in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016, along with four titles at Wimbledon, three at the U.S. Open and one at the French Open.

He broke his tie with Roger Federer and Roy Emerson for most Australian Open men's titles. He also broke a tie with his idol, Pete Sampras, for third-most Grand Slam trophies; Djokovic now only trails Federer, with 20, and Nadal.

And he is gaining on them.

Then there's this tidbit: Djokovic is the only man in tennis history to have a trio of three-straight-Slam streaks.

So let the talk begin about what's more, about a true Grand Slam, winning all four majors in one calendar year, which only has been done by two men, Donald Budge in 1938 and Rod Laver in 1962 and 1969.

four majors in a row over two seasons, something Djokovic already managed to do from 2015-16. And,

"I am aware that making history of the sport that I truly love is something special," the 31-year-old Serb said. "Of course, it motivates me."

He surprised even himself with the way he recovered after problems with his right elbow derailed him.

Djokovic sat out the last half of 2017. He tried to come back at the start of 2018 but was hampered by the elbow and lost in the fourth round in Melbourne. Soon after, he decided to have surgery.

All that is in the past.

He is once again at an elite level. If anything, the gap between him and the rest is growing right now.

A year ago, could he have envisioned being here now?

"Not impossible, but highly unlikely. I don't want to sound arrogant, but I always believe in myself," Djokovic said. "I think that's probably the biggest secret of my success."

Djokovic and Nadal know each other, their styles and their patterns all too well. This was their 53rd meeting—more than any other pair of men in the half-century professional era—and record-equaling 15th at a Grand Slam tournament. It was also their eighth matchup in a major final.

So there should not have been any mysteries out there on Rod Laver Arena's blue court as they began with the temperature, which had topped 105 degrees (40 Celsius) in recent days, at a manageable 75 (25 C) and just a hint of wind.

Right from the start, though, this shaped up nothing like their only previous Australian Open title match, back in 2012, which Djokovic won in 5 hours, 53 minutes, the longest Grand Slam final in history.

Evenly matched as they were that night, this time was no contest. None whatsoever. It lasted a tad more than 2 hours.

No ball, no matter how well-struck, was out of Djokovic's reach. He slid and stretched and occasionally even did the splits, contorting his body to get wherever and whenever he needed.

Djokovic grabbed 13 of the first 14 points, including all four that lasted 10 strokes or more. A trend was established.

Of most significance, Nadal was broken the very first time he served Sunday. That gave Djokovic one more break of Nadal than the zero that the Spaniard's five preceding opponents had managed.

Nadal could make no headway on this day. Djokovic won each of the initial 16 points he served and 25 of the first 26.

"One of the most important objectives for the match was to start off well and to bring in the right mindset and intensity," Djokovic said, "and make sure that he also feels my presence."

Rose wins at Torrey Pines; DeChambeau rolls in Dubai

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Justin Rose overcame a few nervous moments early in the final round with enough key putts down the stretch for a 3-under 69 to hold off Adam Scott and win the Farmers Insurance Open on Sunday.

Rose had a three-shot lead shrink to a single shot when he opened with three bogeys in five holes, and Jon Rahm made birdie on the par-5 sixth. Rose answered with a bold play on the next hole for a short birdie, restored his lead at the turn and then kept in front of Scott, who birdied his last four holes for a 68.

Rose finished at 21-under 267 for a two-shot victory, becoming the first player since Peter Jacobsen in 1995—when the South and North courses at Torrey Pines were 700 yards shorter—to post all four rounds in the 60s at this event.

"The offseason was short and sharp," Rose said. "I didn't know how I was going to come out. It's awesome to play that well this week."

He won for the 10th consecutive year worldwide, including his gold medal at the 2016 Olympics, and expanded his lead at No. 1 in the world. His 10th victory on the PGA Tour gave him the most of English players, breaking a tie with Nick Faldo.

"He's the No. 1 player in the world, and he's showing why," Scott said. "Even when he was a little off, he kept it together."

Scott, making his debut at this tournament, didn't make a birdie until the ninth hole and missed a 20-inch par putt on the front nine. He was flawless on the back, however, and kept the outcome in doubt until the end.

Rose holed an 8-foot par putt on No. 15 with Scott in tight for birdie to keep his lead at three shots. On the par-3 16th, Rose holed a 30-foot birdie putt, and then Scott rolled in his birdie from 20 feet. Scott pulled within two by hitting his approach to a foot on the 17th.

Scott badly missed the fairway on the par-5 18th and had to lay up from a bunker, and Rose stuffed his wedge into 3 feet to wrap it up. The Australian figured he lost his best chance on the front nine, when Rose was dropping shots and he couldn't make a move.

"Just was a little shaky and I wasn't solid tee-to-green," Scott said. "He never really was under much pressure. By the time I got it sorted out, it was too late."

Hideki Matsuyama closed with a 67 and tied for third with Talor Gooch, who shot 68. Gooch, who finished fourth last week in the Desert Classic to get into this event, earned a spot in next week's Phoenix Open. He is playing this year on conditional status.

Rahm was never a factor after pulling within one shot with that birdie on No. 6, which turned out to be the only one he made all round. He shot 72 and tied for fifth with Rory McIlroy (69) and defending champion Jason Day (67).

Tiger Woods had to settle for his own version of winning. Starting the final round 13 shots behind, Woods wanted to get into double figures. He birdied his last two holes for a 31 on the front nine to shoot 67 and finish at 10-under 278.

Rose won with a new set of clubs having signed an endorsement deal with Japan-based Honma. He also won without his regular caddie, Mark Fulcher, who had a heart procedure last week. Rose used Gareth Lord, the former caddie of Rose's longtime Ryder Cup partner, Henrik Stenson.

Rose now heads to the Saudi International for a meeting of four of the top five players in the world.

In United Arab Emirates, Bryson DeChambeau shot an 8-under 64 to win the Dubai Desert Classic for his first international victory.

The 25-year-old American, at No. 5 the highest-ranked player in the field, won by seven strokes, finishing at 24-under 264 at Emirates Golf Club.

George lifts Thunder past Bucks for 5th straight win

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Paul George delivered once again for Oklahoma City.

Even Giannis Antetokounmpo was impressed

George had 36 points and 13 rebounds, and the Thunder beat Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks 118-112 on Sunday for their fifth straight victory.

George, an All-Star starter, scored seven points in the final 1:15 to help the Thunder hold off the team with the NBA's best record. As he stood at the free-throw line late in the game, the M-V-P chants that had been reserved for Russell Westbrook in recent years rained down on George.

"He was doing everything," said Antetokounmpo, another All-Star starter. "Making 3s, mid-range, dunking, floaters. It was a little of everything. He was playing amazing. Down the stretch, you know where the ball's going to go. It's going to go to Paul George, and he closed the game out for them and he played the right way."

Westbrook had 13 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his 16th triple-double of the season and No. 120 for his career. Jerami Grant scored 16 points and Terrance Ferguson added 15 for the Thunder.

Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 18 rebounds for Milwaukee, and Khris Middleton added 22 points.

Eric Bledsoe hit a 3-pointer with just over a minute left to cut Oklahoma City's lead to three, but George drained a 3-pointer in Malcolm Brogdon's face at the end of the shot clock to push the margin back up to six

"I've got a smaller guy on me," George said. "Just shoot over the top. Just took advantage of that."

George scored 21 points in the first half to help the Thunder take a 56-42 lead. Antetokounmpo missed all six of his shots before the break and scored just three points.

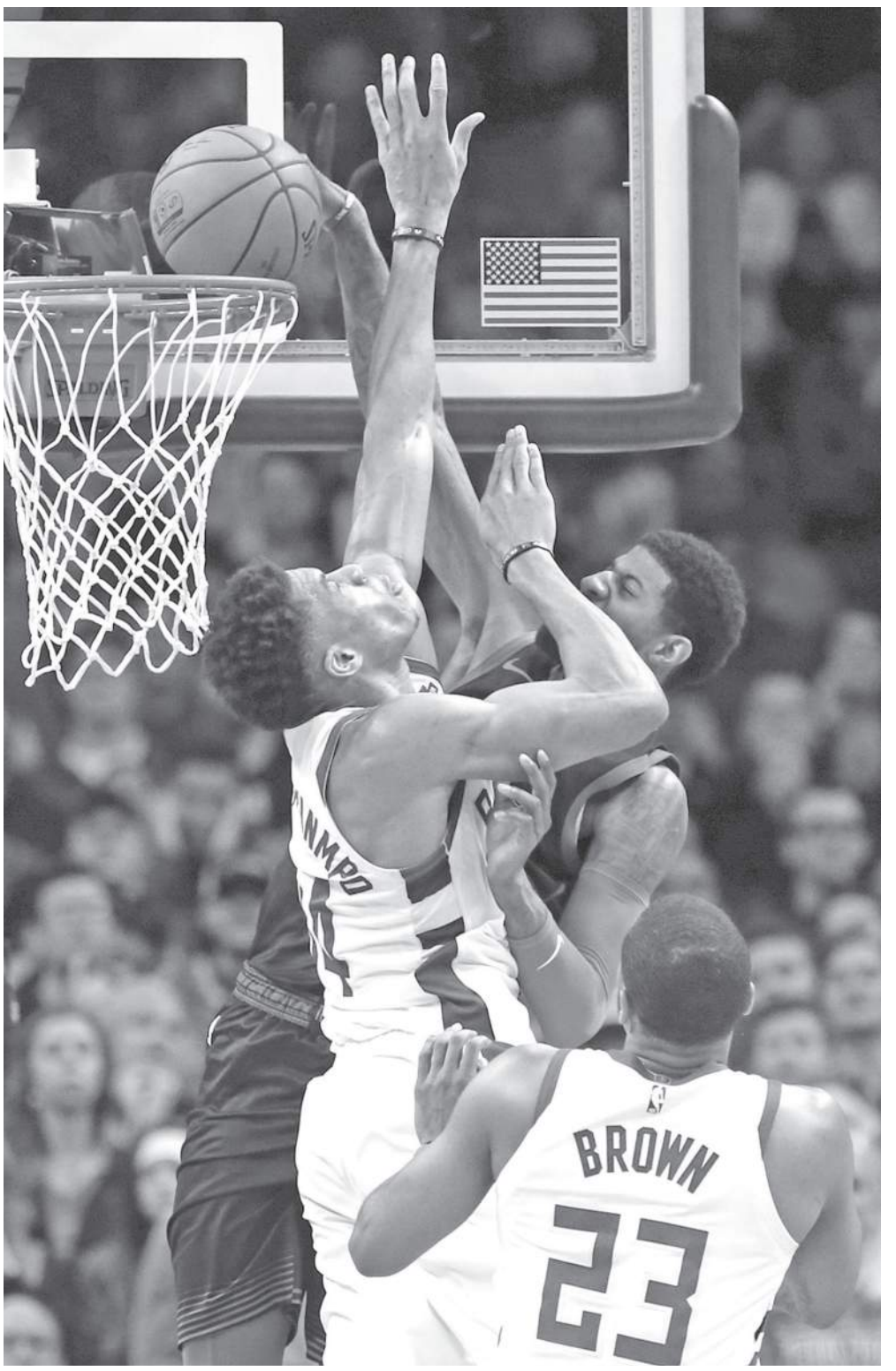
"Giannis had some good looks he normally makes, he didn't make, but then I think individually they were good on him," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Jerami Grant and then a few other guys take the challenge individually. A lot of help. Guys are swarming him, so credit to them."

Steven Adams, Oklahoma City's lumbering 7-foot center, got the crowd amped up with a surprise early in the third quarter. He got a steal, dribbled three quarters of the way down the court and converted a layup to give the Thunder a 64-52 lead.

The Thunder led 82-66 before the Bucks hit three straight 3-pointers, including two from Middleton. Oklahoma City held on to lead 89-79 at the end of the third quarter.

Brook Lopez made all four of his shots in the first quarter, all 3-pointers. He finished with 19 points. Antetokounmpo had 10 rebounds in the first half.

Westbrook made just 5 of 20 shots, while Grant had five blocks.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George, right, goes up for a dunk over Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Cavaliers 104, Bulls 101

In Chicago, Jordan Clarkson and Alec Burks each scored 18 points, and the Cavaliers ended a six-game losing streak.

NBA-worst Cleveland (10-41) had dropped 18 of 19. Cedi Osman scored 17 points, and Matthew Dellavedova finished with 16.

Lauri Markkanen led Chicago with 21 points and 15 rebounds, and Zach LaVine had 17 points and 12 rebounds. The Bulls (11-39) have lost three straight and 13 of 14.

Rodney Hood had a follow basket with 17 seconds left to put Cleveland up 102-101. After a Chicago miss, Dellavedova hit a pair of free throws. LaVine missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

Rockets 103, Magic 98

In Houston, James Harden scored 40 points, and Houston rallied for the win in Chris Paul's return from a hamstring injury.

Houston trailed by as many as 16. The game was tied with about 75 seconds left when a 3-pointer by Harden put the Rockets up 98-95. Terrence Ross missed a 3 on the other end and Harden added a step-back jumper with 30 seconds left.

Harden got his third block when he swatted away a shot by Evan Fournier, and Paul added two free throws with 13.6 seconds remaining to secure Houston's third straight victory. Paul had 12 points and six assists after missing the previous 17 games with a strained left hamstring.

Aaron Gordon had 23 points for the Magic, who have dropped six of seven.

Raptors 123, Mavericks 120

In Dallas, Kawhi Leonard scored 33 points to help Toronto overcome a triple-double from Dallas rookie Luka Doncic.

Pascal Siakam's three-point play snapped a 108-108 tie with 3:56 remaining as the Raptors recovered from a seven-point deficit early in the fourth quarter.

Doncic, who turns 20 on Feb. 28, had 35 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to become the first teenager in NBA history with two triple-doubles.

Kyle Lowry scored 19 points for Toronto and Siakam had 14.

Jazz 125, Timberwolves 111

In Minnesota, Donovan Mitchell had 29 points for surging Utah, and Ricky Rubio added 18 points and eight assists.

After going 2 of 12 in the first half, Mitchell scored 13 points in the third quarter to help hold off a Minnesota rally and give the Jazz their ninth win in 10 games. Utah shot 71 percent (27 of 38) during the second half for its second victory in three nights over the Timberwolves.

Andrew Wiggins led Minnesota with 35 points, and Karl-Anthony Towns added 22. Jerryd Bayless had a season-high 19.

Rudy Gobert had 17 points for Utah.

Spurs 132, Wizards 119

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points, nine rebounds and six assists, powering the Spurs to the victory.

The Spurs were without leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, but had seven players in double figures. Reserve Davis Bertans had a season-high 21 points after missing the previous two games due to personal reasons. Derrick White and Bryn Forbes added 16 points each.

Washington, which had won five of seven, lost its 19th straight in San Antonio. Bradley Beal and Tomas Satoransky each scored 21 points.

Heat 106, Knicks 97

In New York, Wayne Ellington scored each of his 19 points in the second half, and the Heat handed the Knicks their ninth straight loss.

Miami had seven players score in double figures in its second straight win. Dwyane Wade had 15 points and 10 assists, and Hassan Whiteside finished with 13 points and 16 rebounds.

Wade, who plans to retire at the end of the season, received a standing ovation from the Madison Square Garden crowd when he was taken out in the final seconds.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 points for New York, and Trey Burke had 16.

Former Knicks star Carmelo Anthony watched from a courtside seat and waved to the cheering crowd when he was acknowledged on the scoreboard in the first quarter

Doncic first NBA player with multiple triple-doubles as teenager

Dallas Mavericks sensation Luka Doncic became the first NBA player to register multiple triple-doubles as a teenager.

The Mavs rookie posted 35 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in a 123-120 loss to the Toronto Raptors on Sunday. The 19-year-old guard also became the first teenager in NBA history to record a 30-point triple-double.

Doncic has taken the league by storm. He leads all rookies in points per game (20.2) and minutes per game (32.1). The clear frontrunner for Rookie of the Year has a chance to be voted into the 2019 All-Star Game as a reserve.

Meanwhile, Hornets point guard Kemba Walker can't imagine what the atmosphere will be like when he's introduced as an NBA All-Star game starter next month on his home court.

''I haven't given it any thought, but I'm sure it will be an unbelievable moment being that the game is in Charlotte,'' Walker said. ''I've been here for eight years now, so it's going to be crazy.''

The 28-year-old Walker was named to the All-Star team for the third time, but it was his first selection as a starter.

He becomes another big story line for the All-Star weekend, along with Stephen Curry returning to the city where he grew up, and former North Carolina college basketball star and current Hornets owner Michael Jordan hosting the game in his own state.

Walker didn't win the fan vote, finishing third among Eastern Conference guards behind Kyrie Irving and Dwayne Wade. It was the media and his fellow NBA players—both picked him second, ahead of Wade—that got him over the top and earned him the start.

''The respect from my peers is what means a lot to me,'' Walker said. ''The guys I go up against each and every night. You know, to have their respect, I think that's huge. And that's what I care most about, to have the respect of my peers.''

Walker is set to become a free agent after this season, but has repeatedly said he wants to return to the Hornets, where he is the franchise's all-time leading scorer.

Walker is averaging a career-best 25 points this season along with 5.7 assists and 3.8 rebounds.

His 3-point shooting has dipped to 35.8 percent—down from 38.4 percent last season—but he is still the man carrying the load for the Hornets night in and night out.

''I feel very deserving,'' said Walker, who is listed as a generous 6-foot-1. ''I've been playing really well this season. Yeah, I feel like I deserve to be in the position I am today and I think that is why I am.''

AFC shows dominance over NFC in Pro Bowl

AP

AFC quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15), of the Kansas City Chiefs, throws a pass against the NFC during the first half of the NFL Pro Bowl football game Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Pro Bowl has long been considered a laughable representation of the NFL game.

It reached a new level of comedy Sunday as several players swapped positions during the annual all-star game.

Jacksonville Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey caught a touchdown pass in the final minute, capping a dominant performance for the AFC defense in a 26-7 victory over the NFC in steady rain. It was the third consecutive victory for the AFC, all of them at Camping World Stadium.

The last two were played in sloppy weather, with the latest one also coming amid temperatures in the mid-50s. It was far from ideal conditions, raising speculation about the game's future in Orlando, but fairly fitting considering the effort players provided. It was two-hand touch most of the day, with officials blowing plays dead at the slightest hint of contact.

"Who cares, man?" New York Jets safety Jamal Adams said. "At the end of the day, we're like little kids out there just playing in the mud, playing in the rain."

Regardless of the elements, the AFC made the plays the NFC didn't.

Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes completed an 18-yard touchdown pass to Indianapolis' Eric Ebron on the opening possession, helping Mahomes earn the offensive Most Valuable Player award. Mahomes pleaded with voters to give it to Chiefs fullback Anthony Sherman, who caught three passes for 92 yards and ran for a score.

"Sherman had my vote. Sherman had my vote," said Mahomes, who completed 7 of 14 passes for 156 yards. "I thought I told everybody on the camera. He made some plays out there. For a fullback, we have one of the best in the league so I'm always happy to try to get him a little vote like that."

Adams, who made headlines for sacking the New England Patriots mascot during a Pro Bowl skills competition, was named the defensive MVP thanks to an interception and a sack.

"It's a great achievement, but the main thing was to come out here and get the victory," Adams said. "That was the main thing, just to get the money, man. That's what we wanted."

Mahomes and Adams each got a luxury vehicle.

AFC players will get $67,000 each for the victory, $8,000 more than the guys who lose the Super Bowl next week in Atlanta. The Pro Bowl losers will get $39,000 each.

The AFC defenders earned their share of the pot. The conference allowed the NFC 148 total yards and 10 first downs while intercepting three passes and notching seven sacks.

Ramsey got in on offense late, catching a 6-yard slant pass from Houston's Deshaun Watson with 19 seconds remaining. Los Angeles Chargers rookie safety Derwin James failed to haul in the 2-point conversion.

"Man, me and Deshaun, that's my brother from another mother," Ramsey said. "We've been plotting and scheming all week, manifesting, and it just came about."

New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley, Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott, Tampa Bay receiver Mike Evans and New Orleans' Alvin Kamara all got in on defense for the NFC. Evans notched an interception.

The AFC led 20-0 early in the fourth quarter, looking like it might record the first shutout in Pro Bowl history. But Dallas' Dak Prescott found Atlanta's Austin Hooper for a 20-yard score on fourth down with 9:09 remaining.

The NFC had plenty of chances before that. The conference failed to score on a fourth-and-goal run early. Chicago's Mitchell Trubisky, Minnesota receiver Adam Thielen and Prescott threw interceptions.

Trubisky was sacked by Adams on a flea flicker, and Dallas' Amari Cooper had a wide-open touchdown pass bounce off his face mask.

Seattle's Russell Wilson also was sacked four times.

SBA Open 8-Ball League sign-up starts

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDEDNT

Registration for the 2019 Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League is now open, as competition is scheduled to start on Feb. 26

The league will feature participants of all skill levels, from novice players to seasoned veterans. Registrations and inquiries can be made in person at the Pacific Amusement Inc. office located next to Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Centre in Gualo Rai. Players can also register online at pacificamusement.com.

"I expect more teams than last season because there are former players who will be returning to play," league secretary Warlee Ellama said. "The lineup will be completed by the end of the month. I'm looking forward to seeing more teams and players joining this season."

Since 2017, the SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League has been held annually with competition running for six months. From 2005 to 2016, the league was broken up into separate and relatively shorter biannual seasons, before league officials and players opted to have one, but extended season per year.

Games will take place every Tuesday and Thursday and will be played at the following venues: 9 Eleven Restobar in San Jose, Amari's Tavern in Susupe, Brannon's Grill in Gualo Rai, Sands Bar in Garapan, and VFW Post 3457 in Garapan, and FF Bar.

Ellama, who plays a key role in organizing the competition, is also a participant in league.

"If I play on game night, they don't treat me as an organizer, but as an opponent," Warlee said. "I just love to play the game, win or lose."

CNMI

From Page 28

and are able to test our strength. The next competition we are preparing for is the Pacific Games in Samoa in about six months and I hope to put out better numbers there," she added.

Also earning top honors in last weekend's event was Angel San Nicolas, who had 115 kg in snatch and 150 kg in clean and jerk for a total of 265. The 2017 NMSA Male Athlete of the Year ruled the 96-kg weight class.

Joining San Nicolas in the podium was David Barnhouse, who finished third (using Sinclair Coefficient in ranking) after lifts of 125 kg (snatch) and 151 (clean and jerk).

Both Barnhouse and San Nicolas are aiming to represent the CNMI in the Pacific Games in Apia this summer with the former planning to compete from the 109+ kg to a lower weight class.

The Pacific Games will run from July 7 to 20 with weightlifting competitions scheduled at the Faleata Gymnasium 1 from July 9 to 13. The Commonwealth is counting on the islands' weightlifters after they delivered the most medals (15) by any CNMI team in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

TOUGH

From Page 28

and Hoo Wang marched into the title game in the U12 age group and will face Juncheol Hwang and Anna Kwon in this weekend's finale.

Serin and Wang got a bye last Saturday and then topped Irin Chung and Savita Sikkel in their semis match last Sunday, 4-2, 4-2. Irin and Sikkel moved into the Final Four following a 4-0, 4-0 demolition of Christian Newman and Ian Song.

Hwang and Kwon also crushed Andy and Dana Lee, 4-0, 4-0, to gain the other finals berth. The Lees, before losing in the semifinals, had a hard earned 1-4, 4-3, 5-4 victory over June Yu and Takeru Jim.

Besides the U12 doubles finals, the third place game between the pairs of Irin Chung/Sikkel and Andy and Dana Lee and the rained-out matches in other divisions will be played this weekend.

CHAGI

From Page 28

the champion's first win coming via default and the second at the 10-6 tally. Chagi collected five victories in the division with the other two recorded against the Junior Lady Ol'Aces, 11-4 and 7-3.

Tinian lost to the Junior Lady Ol'Aces in their first meeting, 6-7, but got even in the second and advanced to the finals after posting an 8-2 triumph.

In the women's open division, veteran Connie Camacho teamed up with Lia Rangamar, Eleina Santos, and Jan Travilla to beat CTSI, which was made up of Alliyah Fernandez, Irish Pagarao, Madeleine Alegre, and Nana Watanabe.

Bomb Digz swept the preliminary round of the four-team field to gain the top seeding in the playoffs. The eventual champion first edged the Lady Aces, 8-5, and then thwarted CTSI, 13-6. Bomb Digz, whose members have played for the CNMI national team, closed out the prelims with a lopsided victory over the Ballerz, 20-6.

With its unbeaten record heading into the playoffs, Bomb Digz was paired against the Lady Aces in the semifinals and eased its way to the title match after a 16-4 victory

CTSI, on the other hand, earned a 6-point win against the Ballerz, 12-6, to get a second crack at Bomb Digz. CTSI was ranked No. 2 in the playoffs after posting a 2-1 mark in the preliminary round. The runner-up team nosed out the Lady Ol'Aces in the first game, 13-11, and then defeated the Ballerz in the second, 8-5, before missing a perfect record after a loss to Bomb Digz.

Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

3logy's Paulo Rafols, right, is hemmed in by JPdoubleD's Jack Lizama during their semis game in the men's open division of the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team Ali'i Blue Haus' Ivan Devero, right, challenges the defense of Mix Breed's Greg Sablan.

Team Ali'i Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios attempts a point-blank shot against Mix Breed's Coby Santos, partly hidden.

JPdoubleD's Douglas Schmidt scoops one in, as 3logy's Pete Lizama, left, and Sean Rabasto look on.

Team Ali'i Blue Haus' Errol Peredo takes off for a layup against Mix Breed's Greg Sablan.

Mix Breed's Dean Blake, right, drives against Team Ali'i Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios.

3logy's Sean Rabasto stretches for a layup.

Mix Breed's Coby Santos escapes past the defense of Team Ali'i Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios for an open layup.

Djokovic crushes Nadal for record 7th title

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George lifts Thunder past Bucks for 5th straight win

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Chagi, Bomb Digz triumph

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Chagi's Paulynn Joyce, center, splits the defense of two Junior Lady Ol'Aces players during their game in the women's U18 division of the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Chagi and Bomb Digz topped their respective divisions in the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament held over the weekend at the Civic Center court and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Bomb Digz won the women's open division championship after outclassing CTSI in the finals, 16-11, while Chagi triumphed in the women's U18 category after slipping past Tinian in the title game, 13-10.

Sharmaine Francisco scored 5 points to lift Chagi to the close win. Ruschell Valino and Paulyn Joyce added 4 markers each in the title victory, while Colleen Cing paced Tinian with her 5 points. Emiliana King chipped in 4 and Pritz Carreon made one for the visiting squad, which also had Jaren Lagunay on its roster.

Chagi defeated Tinian three times in the tournament with

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Tough win for Kang, Chung

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Daniel Kang and Andrew Chung labored their way through the semifinals of the U18 advanced doubles event in the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament.

After getting a bye in the opening week and automatically advancing to the quarterfinals, it took Chung and Kang a super-tiebreaker third set to eliminate Anthony Gregoire and Helen Kim and make it to the semis last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. Kang and Chung eked out a 4-3 win in the opening set, but failed to finish off their foes early when Kim and Gregoire cruised to a 4-1 triumph. Then in the decider, Kang and Chung got their acts together for a 5-2 victory that set them a semis date with Malika Miyawaki and David Kwon at the lower half of the draw.

Miyawaki, one of the organizers of the inaugural tournament, and Kwon booked a Final Four slot in the division after easing past Daniel Heo and Jaehoon Son, 4-0, 4-1.

Joining the pairs of Kwon and Miyawaki and Kang and Chung in the semifinals were Sam Ryu and Min Cho and Steven Goodwin and Jeffrey Seo. Ryu and Cho pulled off a 4-3 victory over Isaac Heo and Serin Chung and completed a sweep with an easier 4-1 triumph to arrange a semis duel against Goodwin and Seo—a 4-2, 4-2 winner over Allan Lee and Andy Kim. Earlier in the first round, Goodwin and Seo also notched a two-set victory over Alex Park and Jun Wang, 4-3, 4-1.

Meanwhile, in other doubles results, Serin Chung

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Andrew Chung returns a shot to Anthony Gregoire and Helen Kim during the U18 advanced doubles game in the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

CNMI weightlifters deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI weightlifters stood out in the Guam Weightlifting Open Championship 2019 held last Saturday at the Chamorri CrossFit Gym in Tamuning.

Micronesian Games gold medalist Antonette Labausa led the visiting team's outstanding showing in the annual tournament after recording the best weight total out of the 17 women weightlifters in the field. She had 68 kilos in the snatch and 91 kgs in the clean and jerk for a weight total of 159 kg in the 81-kg weight class.

Despite coming out on top of the entire women's division, Labausa believes she needs to work harder in training to improve her lifts, especially now that they are preparing for the 2019 Pacific Games.

"The Guam tournament was fun although I was not satisfied with my results. I am always looking to improve my numbers in each competition. I actually did better in the Micronesian Games, but you know, every competition is different," said Labausa, who thanked the Guam Weightlifting Federation for the invites.

"I am glad Guam hosts competitions that we get to go to

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Angel San Nicolas, center, and David Barnhouse, right, make it to the podium of the Guam Weightlifting Open Championship 2019 held last Saturday at the Chamorri CrossFit Gym in Tamuning.